Ed28

THE GENERAL THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY LIBRARY
CHELSEA SQUARE, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

Society for Promoting Religion
and Learning

E D Shaw

The State of the Poor

The State of the Poor

A HISTORY OF THE LABOURING CLASSES
IN ENGLAND, WITH PAROCHIAL REPORTS

By
SIR FREDERIC MORTON EDEN,
BART.

Abridged and edited by
A. G. L. ROGERS
with an Introduction

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LTD.
BROADWAY HOUSE: 68-74 CARTER LANE, E.C.
1928

26 1.15
Ed 28

129836

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY THE DEVONSHIRE PRESS, TORQUAY

CONTENTS

PAGE

List of the Principal Acts of Parliament referred to in the Text . . . xiii
Introduction xv
Book I. History of the Poor from the Conquest to the Present Period . . . 1
Book II. Of National Establishments for the Maintenance of the Poor: of the English Poor Law System: of the Diet, Dress, Fuel and Habitation of the Labouring Classes in Great Britain.
Chapter I 85
Chapter II 100

PAROCHIAL REPORTS

Bedfordshire
Dunstable 129
Houghton Regis. 130
Humbershoe 131
Leighton Buzzard 132
Berks.
Reading 133
Streatley 135
Wallingford 137
New Windsor 138
Bucks.
Buckingham 140
Maids Morton 141
Stony Stratford 142
Winslow 142
Cheshire
Chester 144
High Walton 146
Mickle Trafford 146

PAGE

CORNWALL
Gwennap 146
Kenwyn 147
CUMBERLAND
Ainstable 147
Bromfield 148
Caldbeck 148
Carlisle 149
Castle Carrock 153
Croglin 153
Cumrew 154
Cumwhitton 154
Gilcrux 157
Harrington 157
Hesket 158
Kirkoswald 159
Nent Head 159
Sebergham 160
Warwick on the Eden 161
Wetheral 161
Workington 164
DERBYSHIRE
Chesterfield 167
Derby 169
Wirksworth 171
DEVON
Clyst St. George 173
South Tawton 174
Tiverton 174
DORSET
Blandford 176
Durweston 178
DURHAM
St. Margaret's 178
St. Nicholas Durham 179
Holy Island 180
Monk Wearmouth 181
South Shields 182

PAGE
Stanhope 183
Sunderland 185
Tanfield 187
ESSEX
Colchester 188
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Bristol 189
Rodmarton 192
Stapleton 192
HAMPSHIRE
Gosport 194
Hawkley, Newton Valence . . . 194
Petersfield 195
Portsea 196
Portsmouth 197
Southampton 199
Isle of Wight 199
HEREFORDSHIRE
Hereford 204
HERTFORDSHIRE
St. Albans 205
Chipping Barnet 206
Redbourn 206
KENT
Ashford 207
Chalk 209
Great Chart 209
Cobham 210
Hothfield 210
Meopham 211
Westwell 211
LANCASHIRE
Bury 212
Lancaster 214
Liverpool 216
Manchester 218
Preston 220
Warrington 222

PAGE

LEICESTERSHIRE
Ashby de la Zouch 223
Carlton Curlieu 225
Kibworth Beauchamp 225
Leicester 227
LINCOLNSHIRE
Alford 229
Cockerington 230
Louth 231
Spilsby 233
Swineshead 236
Tattershall 237
Willoughby 237
Lincoln 238
MIDDLESEX
Ealing 239
Hampton 242
St. Martin in the Fields 243
MONMOUTHSHIRE
Abergavenny 245
Monmouth 246
NORFOLK
Downham 248
Gressinghall 248
Heckingham 252
Norwich 253
Yarmouth 258
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
Brixworth 260
Kettering 261
Northampton 262
Roade 264
Yardly Goben 266
NORTHUMBERLAND
Newcastle 267
North Shields 271
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Newark 273

PAGE

Nottingham 275
Overingham 278
Worksop 279

OXFORDSHIRE

Banbury 279
Deddington 282
Oxford 284

RUTLAND

Empingham 288
North Luffenham 292

SHROPSHIRE

Bishop's Castle 293
Ellesmere 294
Shrewsbury 296

SOMERSET

Frome 301
Minehead 304
Walcot (Bath) 305

STAFFORDSHIRE

Lichfield 306
Wolverhampton 307

SUFFOLK

Bulcamp 311
Melton 312
Tatingstone 315

SURREY

Epsom 316
Esher 317
Farnham 318
Reigate 320
Walton upon Thames 321

SUSSEX

Burwash 322
Chailey 323
Peasmarsh 324
Winchelsea 324

WARWICKSHIRE

Alcester 325

PAGE

Birmingham 325
Coventry 327
Mollington 329
Southam 329
Sutton Coldfield 330

WESTMORLAND

Kendal 332
Kirkby Lonsdale 337
Orton 340
Underbarrow 341

WILTSHIRE

Bradford 342
Seend 344
Trowbridge 347

WORCESTERSHIRE

Evesham 348
Inkborough 348
Worcester 351

YORKSHIRE

Bradford 351
Burton 352
Ecclesfield 352
Great Driffield 354
Halifax 354
Kingston-upon-Hull 356
Leeds 358
Market Weighton 361
Settle 361
Sheffield 362
Skipton 364
Southowram 365
Pocklington 366
Stokesley 366
Thornton 367

NORTH WALES, DENBIGHSHIRE

Llanferras 368
Wrexham 369

PAGE

SOUTH WALES, PEMBROKESHIRE
Narbeth 370
RADNORSHIRE
Kingston 371
Presteign 372
INDEX OF FAMILY BUDGETS 375
GENERAL INDEX 377

LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF PARLIAMENT REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT

DATE	REGNAL YEAR (CHAPTERS OMITTED)	PAGE
1350	25 Edw. III.	2
1388	12 Rich. II.	4
1496	11 Hen. VII.	4
1504	19 Hen. VII.	4
1530	22 Hen. VIII.	4, 69
1535	27 Hen. VIII	5
1546	1 Edw. VI.	10
1550	3 and 4 Edw. VI.	13
1552	5 and 6 Edw. VI.	13
1555	2 P. and M.	14
1556	2 and 3 P. and M.	69
1559	1 Eliz.	9
1563	5 Eliz.	15, 24, 69, 89
1572	14 Eliz.	16
1576	18 Eliz.	17
1581	23 Eliz.	22
1593	35 Eliz.	19
1597	39 Eliz	18–19
1601	43 Eliz.	4, 19, 35, 126
1604	2 Jac.	22, 23, 24
1605	3 Jac.	22
1606	4 Jac.	22
1609	7 Jac.	22, 25
1623	21 Jac.	22
1627	3 Car.	22, 23
1640	16 Car.	21. 23
1662	13 and 14 Car. II.	27, 28
1685	1 Jac. II.	29
1691	3 and 4 W. and M.	29, 47, 69, 125
1696	7 and 8 W. III.	41

PAGE	REGNAL YEAR (CHAPTERS OMITTED)	PAGE
1697	8 and 9 W. III.	29, 30, 126
1698	9 and 10 W. III.	30
1702	1 Anne	42
1713	12 Anne	23, 30
1719	5 Geo. I.	47
1723	9 Geo. I.	29, 47
1727	13 Geo I.	56, 68
1744	17 Geo. II.	23, 55
1761	2 Geo. III.	61, 145
1767	7 Geo. III.	62
1775	15 Geo. III.	71
1776	16 Geo. III.	58, 72
1778	18 Geo. III.	92
1780	20 Geo. III.	71
1782	22 Geo. III.	73
1786	26 Geo. III.	58, 74, 75
1787	27 Geo III.	56
1790	30 Geo. III.	83
1792	32 Geo. III.	56
1793	33 Geo. III.	56
1794	34 Geo. III.	56
1795	35 Geo. III.	28, 29, 56

INTRODUCTION

THE study of the conditions under which the Labouring Poor live has at all times proved to be a complicated and difficult task. From the nature of their circumstances it can seldom happen that any member of that class is able to devote the time or the learning for a comprehensive treatment of the subject, while few of those who have undertaken the work among the more educated and leisured ranks of society have been able to divest themselves of the conceptions inherent to their own surroundings. In many cases they have been led to the subject by their political opinions or their desire for some scheme of social reform, a bias which often leads to an incomplete or prejudiced statement. But hard as the task has proved when the writer is describing the conditions of his own time, it has generally been found even more difficult when an attempt has been made to treat the matter historically, and to present a trustworthy picture of the social state of an earlier age. For it frequently happens that the author has been obliged to confess that information on many important points is lacking and he has been tempted to build on his scanty material what must be admitted is often an imaginary edifice. And yet few branches of history are more worthy of careful study than the condition of the labouring classes of the nation—or are likely to prove more interesting to the genuine student. The lives of the manual workers of any country who necessarily form the larger part of the population are the surest indication of the welfare and progress of the nation as a whole, and the records of their struggles with the forces of nature or the economic conditions of their time are a

fair means of estimating the prosperity or stage of development of the whole community.

Again, authors are too often dependent for the history of the so-called lower classes of society on the statements of legal text books, or the reports of cases tried before the courts of law. Periods of disturbance and distress are more or less fully described by chroniclers, but the uneventful years of quiet change are passed over in silence. Antiquarians, it is true, have been able to reconstruct a great deal from an examination of what we may call the unconscious testimony of the records of prices of labour or purchased goods, but the number of investigators in the past who deliberately collected such figures is small, and their information often inadequate and partial. For these reasons all students of English social history must feel a special debt of gratitude for Sir Frederic Morton Eden's "The State of the Poor," a work which attempts to set out without undue partizanship not only the facts relating to the condition of the labouring classes, especially those known as "the legal Poor" at the end of the 18th Century, but supplies many figures from which it is possible to make further deductions as to their general welfare, and their means of livelihood. Although Eden's book was by far the most important that had been prepared at that date, the subject was not approached then for the first time. The state of the Poor had been a cause of anxiety for nearly three centuries, not the less real because it was attended by a feeling of wonder how such a well intentioned system as the English Poor Law had failed to produce the excellent results that the authorities considered it should have brought about. The admitted want of success, which led to constant amendments till the law was in a state of confusion, was ascribed to various causes, but the most usual were the depravity of the working classes themselves, their idleness, their improvidence and their propensity to crime. Even so profound a thinker as Locke was convinced that the

growth of the Poor was due to nothing else than the relaxation of discipline, and the corruption of manners (p. 38), and when a philosopher takes so harsh a view it is unlikely that the ordinary citizen will be more charitable. Other explanations were, however, offered as it became obvious that so sweeping a generalisation was untenable. The consolidation of farms, the enclosure of open fields, the introduction of machinery, even the spread of Methodism were suggested, but little or no attempt was made to investigate the probability of any of these suppositions, or to enquire among the Poor themselves what were the causes that led to their distress. It is one of the many merits of Eden's work that he examined every hypothesis. He informs us that it was the exceptionally high prices of the years 1794 and 1795 that induced him to begin his enquiry, but as the work progressed, the subject became so interesting that he extended its scope so as to include details of the state of the labouring classes as well as of the actual Poor. In order to make the report as complete as possible, he included information respecting not only the diet and dress of the labouring classes, but also the area and population of the districts investigated, the chief industries and methods of agriculture, while notes on taxation, tithes, the number of ale-houses, and of friendly societies were added together with much miscellaneous information likely to assist the reader in understanding the conditions under which the Poor actually lived. The difficulties of preparing such a book must have been very great. Published in the year 1797, it was written before any census of the population had been taken, or the country properly surveyed, and it is evident that the local knowledge of the boundaries of the towns and parishes, the number of inhabitants, even the number of houses assessed as liable to Window tax was often very vague. Information regarding Poor Law administration and even taxation (p. 268) was difficult to procure and when offered was in many cases found to be un-

intelligible owing to the way the books and accounts had been kept. At Chipping Barnet the parish officers wholly refused to give any information whatever respecting the Poor or assessments (p. 206), and at St. Martin in the Fields the "apprehension of creating alarm" prevented Eden "from being more minute in his enquiries." In spite of all these difficulties an immense accumulation of facts was made, and a picture of Poor Law administration throughout England was presented which at once established the fame of the author, and secured a reputation for his book, which has not decreased in later years. By common consent it is included among those works to which the term "classic" may fairly be applied, and every subsequent writer on the history of the Poor Law or of the working classes has quoted from it. Some have even read it. Unfortunately the book has long been out of print, and second-hand copies are difficult to obtain. The student, therefore, who wishes to investigate the subject more closely than is possible from ordinary text books and desires to look into the facts at first hand is at a disadvantage. It is believed, therefore, that an abridgment, which would contain all or most of what is of real importance would be acceptable and even useful to those who have not the time or opportunity to peruse the three large volumes in which the book was originally published. Some curtailment of Eden's text is justified. Much of what he wrote, especially in the historical section, has been superseded by later research, and much was of purely temporary interest or value. Though admirably clear, it was written in a style that admits of compression without serious loss, and in many respects with advantage, so that it is hoped that the student will find in this volume all the salient facts of Eden's book recorded as far as possible in Eden's own words, without the extraneous matter that sometimes confuses and frequently wearies the reader. Something is always lost in an abridgment, but occasionally the valuable grain is better appreciated when winnowed from the chaff.

Both the time and the subject were singularly fortunate

in having such an author to describe the State of the Poor at the end of the 18th Century. Sir Frederic Morton Eden, who was born in 1766, and died suddenly at the office of the Globe Insurance Company in 1809, was the eldest son of Sir Robert Eden, Bart., and the nephew of William Eden, the first Lord Auckland (born 1744, died 1814), well known as the friend of the younger Pitt, and at one time President of the Board of Trade. Whether the association of the uncle and nephew was at all intimate is not known, and there is nothing in " The State of the Poor " to indicate that the author was led to conduct his investigations by the influence of any person, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that he might have been attracted to the subject by the known reputation of his relation as an authority on legal and economic questions and by a desire to emulate his fame. Be that as it may, it is evident that his thoughts were turned in that direction at an early stage in his career, when the minds of most men are under the influence of some man or some book. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, taking his degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1787, and proceeding to his Master's degree two years later. His writings show that he had read extensively, and the list of books and pamphlets on the history of the Poor that he quotes, and had undoubtedly studied, is formidable, while his references to other authors are many and judicious, displaying as stated in the " Dictionary of National Biography " an educated and scholarly mind. Nor did he confine himself to reading works bearing directly on his great subject. His comparatively short life was spent in business affairs, and there is nothing to show that he had at any time contemplated taking up Law as a profession, but it is clear that he had carefully considered and had mastered many of the intricacies of English jurisprudence. His comments on such authorities as Lord Kames (p. 69) and Adam Smith (p. 91) show that he was not easily led astray by great names and was capable of forming an independent

judgment on matters of importance. Sound as was his intellect, his character was fully in keeping with it. He was spoken of, as his biographer in the work quoted above says, as a man of well known benevolence of disposition, and his book shows that he had a keen but well balanced sympathy with the class about whom he was writing. He is especially stirred to indignation by any proposal for curtailing the liberty of the individual no matter under what circumstances (p. 32), and he has no patience with those authors who advocated severe measures as a remedy for idleness (p. 58). At the same time he never lets his desire for liberty warp his judgment, and he disagrees strongly with Adam Smith as to the effect of the Settlement Act on the freedom of movement among workers (p. 53). Like most writers of his time, however, his opinions were obviously affected by "The Wealth of Nations," and he regarded self help as the best remedy for poverty. Thus, though he is sparing in his suggestions for an amendment of the Poor Law, he was in favour of limiting the amount of the Poor Rate (p. 127), and looked to the development of Friendly Societies as the most effective way of preventing distress. His advocacy of insurance was not merely academic, for he was one of the founders, and subsequently chairman of the Globe Insurance Co. But though Eden never openly expresses himself against those who remained outside a Friendly Society, he criticises severely those workers who supplied him with budgets of their income and expenditure, and failed to show any provision for illness or other misfortune. He was in favour of a rise in wages corresponding to the increase in the cost of provisions and other necessaries (p. 124), but he strongly advocated a change in what he considered the wasteful diet of the Southern labourers, and constantly contrasted it with the less expensive methods of cooking customary in the North. Indeed, he seems to have had a high opinion of the agricultural workers of Cumberland

and Westmorland, a district with which he must have had more than an accidental connection, though of what kind is not known, since his birthplace appears to have been in Durham, and he spent most of his life in London. At any rate, the information which he supplies about the two former counties is very full and out of all proportion to the statements obtained about other and more populous parts of England. This is the more remarkable since though his Parochial Reports appear at first sight to be based on no very definite method of selection, a closer study will show that elsewhere almost every one is chosen for some characteristic and useful piece of information.

But if the age was fortunate in having such a man to record its history, it is no less true that the man was fortunate in having such an opportunity to display his insight and ability. For it was an age of rapid change, and a new era was fast arriving in which many of the conditions which Eden recorded would have passed away, and been forgotten New ideas were coming to the front, new factors in the social life of the nation were being introduced, and old conceptions of government were passing away Eden came on the scene just in time to witness the collapse of the old machinery of the Poor Law and to record its appearance and its waning powers before it finally lost all semblance of efficiency and was cast aside as useless by the reformed Parliament of the 19th Century. How that machinery worked must now be described.

The reader will notice that Eden states it as a fact of his own observation as well as of other authorities that the object of the Poor Law as laid down by the Statute of the 43rd Elizabeth, supplemented by subsequent legislation, was threefold. It is stated in various forms and in different words, but the intention is practically the same in each case. The Oxford Guardians (p. 287) declared in their report that they have laboured with zeal and assiduity to make their

Workhouse what a House of Industry ought to be, a comfortable asylum for the aged and infirm, a place of useful employment for those who are able to work, and a House of Correction for the idle and profligate. At Preston (p. 221) a paper was published when the new Workhouse was opened in which it was stated that the motives for its erection and establishment were to train up the children of the Poor to habits of industry, religion and virtue, to furnish employment for the Poor of all ages, to prevent idleness, dissipation and vice, and to provide a comfortable asylum for the deserving whom age, disease or infirmity have disabled from pursuing their various employments. In the opening paragraphs of his chapter on National Establishments for the maintenance of the Poor (p. 85), Eden points out that there are three classes of indigent persons, viz, those who cannot work, the industrious who are entitled to employment, and the idle who not less loudly call for compulsion to force them to labour, the first of which he considers have an indefeasible right to claim support, though he is advanced enough to realize that the old laws for "the eschewing of idleness" and "setting the Poor on work" were based on a mistaken idea (p. 92). A perusal of the historical section of this book will show that the same view is not only accepted by almost every writer quoted but also forms the underlying principle of every law dealing with the Poor that had been enacted down to the end of the 18th Century. But while this assumption has been accepted as common ground from almost the earliest times, the relative importance attached to each of these provisions has varied materially in successive ages. From this point of view, indeed, the history of the Poor Law may be roughly divided into three periods, in each of which one of the three categories has taken the more prominent position, while the others have been relegated to a subordinate place. The change from one to the other is insensible, and the periods overlap to

some extent, but the divisions are none the less real or characteristic of the age in which they were predominant. In the first period which begins about the time of the Reformation and ends approximately with the Revolution, the suppression of vagrancy and crime among the lower classes was the chief concern of the Government, and the relief of destitution and the provision of work merely subsidiary. For this policy there was no doubt ample justification. The accession of Henry VII. to the throne and the end of the Wars of the Roses led to the disbanding of numbers of men from the rival forces. The dissolution of the monasteries, the substitution of sheep farming for the old arable cultivation, the economic changes brought about by the discovery of the New World, and the financial disturbances caused by the influx of gold into the Old, caused a social upheaval which has been described at length by many writers and it is unnecessary to tell the story again here. It is sufficient to point out that the result was a great increase in the number of landless and unoccupied men who were compelled to seek their living where they could, and who formed the band of vagrants and vagabonds referred to in the laws of the Tudor dynasty (pp. 4 and 10 to 13). Such persons, who were no doubt a menace to society, and a constant hindrance to law and order, were probably found in every riot or rebellion. The policy of the Government was to prevent their collecting in numbers, and the means adopted was to attempt to enforce their residence in their former homes, and to punish severely all migration. There was no thought of relieving distress at first, but as it became evident that many vagrants were in actual need, provision was gradually made for their maintenance. The Poor Law in its origin, therefore, was purely a matter of police regulation and the desire to succour those in distress merely an unavoidable corollary, imposed by necessity, and not dictated by philanthropy. The Tudor sovereigns, moreover, whose aim was to in-

crease the authority of the Crown and central Government, adopted every expedient to weaken the powers of the corporate boroughs which had grown to such strength during the 15th Century, and with this object looked to the Courts Leet and the parishes as the instruments of local government. Hence the long succession of laws which culminated in the famous Act of the 43rd Elizabeth, which laid the foundation of the modern Poor Law, and imposed the duty of relieving distress on the parish. Eden shows clearly how at first it was proposed to secure the funds for this purpose from voluntary contributions, how ecclesiastical admonition failed to open the purses of men who, while free from fear of actual destitution, were no doubt often affected by the prevailing depression—and how at last it was found incumbent to levy a rate. The money thus raised was supposed to be used, among other things, for setting the Poor on work, but as no definite directions were given how that was to be done the instruction was generally ignored, and the strong and the impotent alike received relief when it was applied for. The author of the pamphlet entitled " Bread for the Poor " (p. 25) says indeed that no rates were levied in many places for twenty, thirty, or even forty years after the Act of Elizabeth was enacted, and another writer declared that in many parishes no collection had been made for the Poor for seven years (p. 26), but by the end of the century it was so well established that Poor Relief was obtainable without much question, that men openly boasted that no matter what they did the parish was bound to maintain them (p. 36).

With the beginning of the 18th Century a new era gradually set in, the chief characteristic of which is the decreasing importance attached to the correction of crime or the compulsion of the idle to work, and the increasing importance of schemes for the provision of employment for those who needed it. The old ideas about rogues and vagabonds died hard, and as late as

1744 an Act was passed defining various classes of "rogues" (p. 58), but in this instance as in others the severity of the law defeated itself, and the punishments allotted were seldom inflicted (p. 24). Towards the latter part of the century the subject is hardly mentioned. Instead of this, the conception that it was the duty of the community to find work for all who needed it came to the front, and filled the whole stage, the relief of distress being considered mainly as the provision of some form of maintenance for the very young or the aged, and those who were insane or otherwise unable to work. Trade and industry were rapidly developing and men's thoughts were turned to the possibility of using the labour of the Poor profitably. It was pointed out that the Act of Elizabeth had contemplated the provision of work for the unemployed, and had authorised the purchase of material for the purpose, but as Henry Fielding observed (p. 60) the overseers had been told what they are to do rather than how they shall do it, while as Sir Matthew Hale pointed out, few people are willing to burden the community with a rate sufficient to procure the necessary stock for setting the Poor to work, but prefer to make yearly payments (p. 35). Nor is this surprising. At that period nearly all industry was still carried on in the manufacturers' own home, with his own labour, and that of an occasional journeyman or a couple of apprentices, and the difficulty of supervising such work must have been enough to deter even the most enterprising overseer from undertaking the task. But about this time the increase in the volume of trade had introduced the beginnings of the capitalistic system of industry, if by that term is meant the organisation of labour at a wage for an employer, in place of production directly for the customers who actually purchased the goods. Such a system leads to the collection of the workers under one roof in a "factory" though, of course, in the absence of machinery the modern methods of division of labour were still undeveloped. It is about this time therefore that we

begin to hear of the Workhouse in place of the House of Correction. The first person to organize the industry of the Poor on these lines appears to have been Mr. Thomas Firmin (p. 33), though he realized that a public workhouse was unpopular, and in many cases impracticable. In spite of the failure of his project, a more general scheme was put forward by Mr. Apletre for the County of Worcester (p. 37) and soon after John Locke pointed out that the really important requirement was the proper education of the young in a working school (p. 39) by which of course he meant education in a handicraft. We shall find this idea constantly cropping up through the whole of the 18th Century. No real progress was, however, made till the parishes in Bristol were incorporated by an Act of Parliament, and a joint workhouse erected in which the Poor were not only to be employed, but maintained. This experiment, which, thanks to the energy of Mr. Cary, was for a time very successful, did not contemplate the provision of work for all and sundry, but was at first confined to the employment of one hundred girls, who were lodged and fed at a building known as The Mint (p. 51). The discovery that it was more profitable to spin fine yarn than coarse made the difference between success and failure, and encouraged the officers to attempt similar work with one hundred boys, and then with " the ancient people of the city." But this extension of the scheme caused its downfall and led to its complete abandonment after a few years. About thirty years after the House was opened it was closed and Bristol became a terror to vagrants from the severity of the treatment dealt out to them. Nevertheless the idea of a Parish Workhouse had now caught on and the example of Bristol was imitated in many large and small towns throughout England. The mantle of Mr. Cary fell on the shoulders of Mr. Marryott, of Olney, and his energy and organising capacity produced some striking results. Not only were the Poor housed and set to work in many places, but the

rates in those parishes were for a time materially reduced, partly no doubt due to good management, but chiefly because the unpopularity of these establishments led many applicants who had no objection to parish relief so long as it consisted of a dole to be spent as they liked, to refuse to put themselves under the stern discipline of an 18th Century Workhouse. The list of parishes whose inhabitants are recorded as regarding their Parish Workhouse with fear and loathing is long and only one is mentioned by Eden as being sought after as a desirable place. It is singular that this should belong to two of the outlying parishes of Bristol, where the first experiment had been tried and had failed (p. 191). The reasons for this almost universal dislike will be given later.

In the first half of the 18th Century, therefore, it had become an accepted axiom that the object of a Poorhouse was to set the inmates to work, and that the industry would be profitable if managed properly. Unfortunately the overseers, who in process of time had become the administrators of Poor Relief instead of supervisors, went out of office at the end of each year, and only in rare cases were re-elected. There were no permanent officials to keep up the tradition of policy, and it frequently happened that as at Maidstone (p. 52) the Poor would be employed one year in the linen and another in the woollen industry, merely as it suited the interest of the managers. The law therefore which authorised the churchwardens and overseers of any parish with the consent of the major part of the parishioners in the vestry to "farm" the Poor, though it led to grave abuses, and was subsequently repealed, was no doubt at first a step forward. It introduced an element of stability into the workhouse system which was needed in the interest of the inmates and the ratepayers alike, for there is no doubt it was the more economical system. There was, however, no compulsion to employ the Poor in this manner and no uniformity in the methods adopted. Many parishes still preferred to give the in-

digent a weekly pension without enquiring whether the recipient was capable of maintaining himself, or at least contributing to his own support. This of course was mainly in the smaller and rural parishes, where the applicants were few, and where the opportunities for remunerative work were rare. Examples of this practice in the little parishes are too numerous to need special attention being drawn to them, and it is obvious that so long as such parishes supported their own Poor no other course was open to the overseers. But it is remarkable that a comparatively prosperous town like Trowbridge (p. 347), with 7,000 inhabitants, principally manufacturers of superfine broad cloth and Kerseymere, whose wages were not strikingly depressed, maintained the Poor by a parish allowance at home, and that there was no regular workhouse. At Seend, near Melksham (p.344), there was no House of Industry, nor any regular establishment for the employment of the Poor, who lived in houses belonging to the chapelry. Under the head of Inkborough, in Worcestershire (p. 350), we are told that Workhouses were not generally adopted in the neighbourhood, but relief is given at the caprice of the parish officers. Even some of the parishes of Colchester (p. 188) and one of the parishes of Derby (p. 169) had no Workhouse, though others in the same towns had. Such cases however which are interesting as survivals of what was no doubt the usual custom in the previous century were comparatively rare, and many of even the smaller parishes either had a Workhouse of their own or paid contributions to an adjoining town for the right to send their Poor to a House of Industry if they desired to do so. This plan was adopted in several small places in Cumberland. No less than thirteen rural parishes had the right to send their Poor to Carlisle Workhouse (p. 149). The little parish of Gilcrux (p. 157), with only 207 inhabitants rented part of a Poor-house at Cockermouth for £2 a year. This, we are told, was intended as a check on the class of indigent persons that fell

within the description of "Sturdy Beggars," and no paupers undeservedly necessitous had ever been sent thither. At Hesket (p. 158), with 1,150 inhabitants, a parish meeting was held every month to which the necessitous applied, and were relieved at the discretion of the overseers. If they refused what was offered them, they were sent to the Workhouse at Carlisle, an alternative which they always wished and generally contrived to avoid. In these cases, as in the more famous case of Maidstone (p. 52), the avowed object of a Workhouse was to keep down the rates by deterring the Poor from making application for relief and inducing them to work for themselves, instead of finding work for them. At Portsmouth (p. 197), where complaints were made of the great number of casual Poor, the parish insisted upon applicants going into the House, by which means expenditure was much reduced, not because the Poor were maintained at a cheaper rate there than in their own homes, but because the apprehension of being obliged to mix with various descriptions of indigent people usually found in a large Poor-house deters many from making application. We cease to be surprised at the disinclination of "the modest Poor" to accept relief on these terms when we learn that the house in question was said to be neither well contrived nor well managed. But even where the management was better the result was the same, and Mr. Rainey, the overseer of Bradford-on-Avon, a strenuous advocate for Workhouses, based his support on the ground that they were the best means for keeping down the rates, promoting industry, checking vice and immorality and punishing the idle Poor (p. 344). Dr. Burn indeed, who sometimes let his pen run away with him, went so far as to declare that in many cases the overseers contrived to contract with obnoxious persons of savage disposition for the maintenance of their Poor; not with a view of making their situation more comfortable, but to hold out the Workhouse as a terrible alternative to those who

would not acquiesce in the pittances which the parish officers thought fit to allow them (p 73) Eden records no instance of such brutality, though the policy adopted at Esher (p. 318) of supporting a certain number of old persons of respectable condition by the overseers and leaving the other Poor to the contractor, suggests that the " farmer " was less likely to be sympathetic in his treatment than the parish officers.

In many other places, nevertheless, it was genuinely held that the labour of the inmates of a Workhouse might be utilised profitably both to the community and to the Poor themselves. The methods of employing them, however, differed widely in different places. The simplest and most obvious was to put the Paupers into the hands of a contractor, who undertook to feed and clothe them, in return for a definite sum, together with what he could make out of their earnings. Sometimes the sum was fixed at so much a year, irrespective of the number of persons accommodated ; sometimes at so much a head for each person sent into the house. But in every case the contractor was left free to employ the inmates in what manner he would. Such a plan was naturally most often adopted in those counties where the old forms of manufacture, without machinery, were still practised. The " farmer " was generally a local employer of labour who found in the Workhouses a ready supply of " hands " for his industry, who were not in a position to leave their master if his service proved too hard or distasteful. The farmer of the House of Industry at Louth (p. 232) was a wool-comber and a manufacturer of worsted. He employed some of the Poor in combing wool, spinning and knitting worsted, and some in common labour out of the House. He said he provided places for those boys and girls who did not like his business, presumably when the time came for them to leave the Workhouse and support themselves. A worsted manufacturer took charge of the Poor at Spilsby (p. 235), but in this case the earnings were inconsiderable.

INTRODUCTION

THE study of the conditions under which the Labouring Poor live has at all times proved to be a complicated and difficult task. From the nature of their circumstances it can seldom happen that any member of that class is able to devote the time or the learning for a comprehensive treatment of the subject, while few of those who have undertaken the work among the more educated and leisured ranks of society have been able to divest themselves of the conceptions inherent to their own surroundings. In many cases they have been led to the subject by their political opinions or their desire for some scheme of social reform, a bias which often leads to an incomplete or prejudiced statement. But hard as the task has proved when the writer is describing the conditions of his own time, it has generally been found even more difficult when an attempt has been made to treat the matter historically, and to present a trustworthy picture of the social state of an earlier age. For it frequently happens that the author has been obliged to confess that information on many important points is lacking and he has been tempted to build on his scanty material what must be admitted is often an imaginary edifice. And yet few branches of history are more worthy of careful study than the condition of the labouring classes of the nation—or are likely to prove more interesting to the genuine student. The lives of the manual workers of any country who necessarily form the larger part of the population are the surest indication of the welfare and progress of the nation as a whole, and the records of their struggles with the forces of nature or the economic conditions of their time are a

fair means of estimating the prosperity or stage of development of the whole community.

Again, authors are too often dependent for the history of the so-called lower classes of society on the statements of legal text books, or the reports of cases tried before the courts of law. Periods of disturbance and distress are more or less fully described by chroniclers, but the uneventful years of quiet change are passed over in silence. Antiquarians, it is true, have been able to reconstruct a great deal from an examination of what we may call the unconscious testimony of the records of prices of labour or purchased goods, but the number of investigators in the past who deliberately collected such figures is small, and their information often inadequate and partial. For these reasons all students of English social history must feel a special debt of gratitude for Sir Frederic Morton Eden's "The State of the Poor," a work which attempts to set out without undue partizanship not only the facts relating to the condition of the labouring classes, especially those known as "the legal Poor" at the end of the 18th Century, but supplies many figures from which it is possible to make further deductions as to their general welfare, and their means of livelihood. Although Eden's book was by far the most important that had been prepared at that date, the subject was not approached then for the first time. The state of the Poor had been a cause of anxiety for nearly three centuries, not the less real because it was attended by a feeling of wonder how such a well intentioned system as the English Poor Law had failed to produce the excellent results that the authorities considered it should have brought about. The admitted want of success, which led to constant amendments till the law was in a state of confusion, was ascribed to various causes, but the most usual were the depravity of the working classes themselves, their idleness, their improvidence and their propensity to crime. Even so profound a thinker as Locke was convinced that the

growth of the Poor was due to nothing else than the relaxation of discipline, and the corruption of manners (p. 38), and when a philosopher takes so harsh a view it is unlikely that the ordinary citizen will be more charitable. Other explanations were, however, offered as it became obvious that so sweeping a generalisation was untenable. The consolidation of farms, the enclosure of open fields, the introduction of machinery, even the spread of Methodism were suggested, but little or no attempt was made to investigate the probability of any of these suppositions, or to enquire among the Poor themselves what were the causes that led to their distress. It is one of the many merits of Eden's work that he examined every hypothesis. He informs us that it was the exceptionally high prices of the years 1794 and 1795 that induced him to begin his enquiry, but as the work progressed, the subject became so interesting that he extended its scope so as to include details of the state of the labouring classes as well as of the actual Poor. In order to make the report as complete as possible, he included information respecting not only the diet and dress of the labouring classes, but also the area and population of the districts investigated, the chief industries and methods of agriculture, while notes on taxation, tithes, the number of ale-houses, and of friendly societies were added together with much miscellaneous information likely to assist the reader in understanding the conditions under which the Poor actually lived. The difficulties of preparing such a book must have been very great. Published in the year 1797, it was written before any census of the population had been taken, or the country properly surveyed, and it is evident that the local knowledge of the boundaries of the towns and parishes, the number of inhabitants, even the number of houses assessed as liable to Window tax was often very vague. Information regarding Poor Law administration and even taxation (p. 268) was difficult to procure and when offered was in many cases found to be un-

intelligible owing to the way the books and accounts had been kept. At Chipping Barnet the parish officers wholly refused to give any information whatever respecting the Poor or assessments (p. 206), and at St. Martin in the Fields the "apprehension of creating alarm" prevented Eden "from being more minute in his enquiries." In spite of all these difficulties an immense accumulation of facts was made, and a picture of Poor Law administration throughout England was presented which at once established the fame of the author, and secured a reputation for his book, which has not decreased in later years. By common consent it is included among those works to which the term "classic" may fairly be applied, and every subsequent writer on the history of the Poor Law or of the working classes has quoted from it. Some have even read it. Unfortunately the book has long been out of print, and second-hand copies are difficult to obtain. The student, therefore, who wishes to investigate the subject more closely than is possible from ordinary text books and desires to look into the facts at first hand is at a disadvantage. It is believed, therefore, that an abridgment, which would contain all or most of what is of real importance would be acceptable and even useful to those who have not the time or opportunity to peruse the three large volumes in which the book was originally published. Some curtailment of Eden's text is justified. Much of what he wrote, especially in the historical section, has been superseded by later research, and much was of purely temporary interest or value. Though admirably clear, it was written in a style that admits of compression without serious loss, and in many respects with advantage, so that it is hoped that the student will find in this volume all the salient facts of Eden's book recorded as far as possible in Eden's own words, without the extraneous matter that sometimes confuses and frequently wearies the reader. Something is always lost in an abridgment, but occasionally the valuable grain is better appreciated when winnowed from the chaff.

Both the time and the subject were singularly fortunate

in having such an author to describe the State of the Poor at the end of the 18th Century. Sir Frederic Morton Eden, who was born in 1766, and died suddenly at the office of the Globe Insurance Company in 1809, was the eldest son of Sir Robert Eden, Bart., and the nephew of William Eden, the first Lord Auckland (born 1744, died 1814), well known as the friend of the younger Pitt, and at one time President of the Board of Trade. Whether the association of the uncle and nephew was at all intimate is not known, and there is nothing in " The State of the Poor " to indicate that the author was led to conduct his investigations by the influence of any person, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that he might have been attracted to the subject by the known reputation of his relation as an authority on legal and economic questions and by a desire to emulate his fame. Be that as it may, it is evident that his thoughts were turned in that direction at an early stage in his career, when the minds of most men are under the influence of some man or some book. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, taking his degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1787, and proceeding to his Master's degree two years later. His writings show that he had read extensively, and the list of books and pamphlets on the history of the Poor that he quotes, and had undoubtedly studied, is formidable, while his references to other authors are many and judicious, displaying as stated in the " Dictionary of National Biography " an educated and scholarly mind. Nor did he confine himself to reading works bearing directly on his great subject. His comparatively short life was spent in business affairs, and there is nothing to show that he had at any time contemplated taking up Law as a profession, but it is clear that he had carefully considered and had mastered many of the intricacies of English jurisprudence. His comments on such authorities as Lord Kames (p. 69) and Adam Smith (p. 91) show that he was not easily led astray by great names and was capable of forming an independent

judgment on matters of importance. Sound as was his intellect, his character was fully in keeping with it. He was spoken of, as his biographer in the work quoted above says, as a man of well known benevolence of disposition, and his book shows that he had a keen but well balanced sympathy with the class about whom he was writing. He is especially stirred to indignation by any proposal for curtailing the liberty of the individual no matter under what circumstances (p. 32), and he has no patience with those authors who advocated severe measures as a remedy for idleness (p. 58). At the same time he never lets his desire for liberty warp his judgment, and he disagrees strongly with Adam Smith as to the effect of the Settlement Act on the freedom of movement among workers (p. 53). Like most writers of his time, however, his opinions were obviously affected by "The Wealth of Nations," and he regarded self help as the best remedy for poverty. Thus, though he is sparing in his suggestions for an amendment of the Poor Law, he was in favour of limiting the amount of the Poor Rate (p. 127), and looked to the development of Friendly Societies as the most effective way of preventing distress. His advocacy of insurance was not merely academic, for he was one of the founders, and subsequently chairman of the Globe Insurance Co. But though Eden never openly expresses himself against those who remained outside a Friendly Society, he criticises severely those workers who supplied him with budgets of their income and expenditure, and failed to show any provision for illness or other misfortune. He was in favour of a rise in wages corresponding to the increase in the cost of provisions and other necessaries (p. 124), but he strongly advocated a change in what he considered the wasteful diet of the Southern labourers, and constantly contrasted it with the less expensive methods of cooking customary in the North. Indeed, he seems to have had a high opinion of the agricultural workers of Cumberland

and Westmorland, a district with which he must have had more than an accidental connection, though of what kind is not known, since his birthplace appears to have been in Durham, and he spent most of his life in London. At any rate, the information which he supplies about the two former counties is very full and out of all proportion to the statements obtained about other and more populous parts of England. This is the more remarkable since though his Parochial Reports appear at first sight to be based on no very definite method of selection, a closer study will show that elsewhere almost every one is chosen for some characteristic and useful piece of information.

But if the age was fortunate in having such a man to record its history, it is no less true that the man was fortunate in having such an opportunity to display his insight and ability. For it was an age of rapid change, and a new era was fast arriving in which many of the conditions which Eden recorded would have passed away, and been forgotten New ideas were coming to the front, new factors in the social life of the nation were being introduced, and old conceptions of government were passing away Eden came on the scene just in time to witness the collapse of the old machinery of the Poor Law and to record its appearance and its waning powers before it finally lost all semblance of efficiency and was cast aside as useless by the reformed Parliament of the 19th Century. How that machinery worked must now be described.

The reader will notice that Eden states it as a fact of his own observation as well as of other authorities that the object of the Poor Law as laid down by the Statute of the 43rd Elizabeth, supplemented by subsequent legislation, was threefold. It is stated in various forms and in different words, but the intention is practically the same in each case. The Oxford Guardians (p. 287) declared in their report that they have laboured with zeal and assiduity to make their

Workhouse what a House of Industry ought to be, a comfortable asylum for the aged and infirm, a place of useful employment for those who are able to work, and a House of Correction for the idle and profligate. At Preston (p. 221) a paper was published when the new Workhouse was opened in which it was stated that the motives for its erection and establishment were to train up the children of the Poor to habits of industry, religion and virtue, to furnish employment for the Poor of all ages, to prevent idleness, dissipation and vice, and to provide a comfortable asylum for the deserving whom age, disease or infirmity have disabled from pursuing their various employments. In the opening paragraphs of his chapter on National Establishments for the maintenance of the Poor (p. 85), Eden points out that there are three classes of indigent persons, viz, those who cannot work, the industrious who are entitled to employment, and the idle who not less loudly call for compulsion to force them to labour, the first of which he considers have an indefeasible right to claim support, though he is advanced enough to realize that the old laws for "the eschewing of idleness" and "setting the Poor on work" were based on a mistaken idea (p. 92). A perusal of the historical section of this book will show that the same view is not only accepted by almost every writer quoted but also forms the underlying principle of every law dealing with the Poor that had been enacted down to the end of the 18th Century. But while this assumption has been accepted as common ground from almost the earliest times, the relative importance attached to each of these provisions has varied materially in successive ages. From this point of view, indeed, the history of the Poor Law may be roughly divided into three periods, in each of which one of the three categories has taken the more prominent position, while the others have been relegated to a subordinate place. The change from one to the other is insensible, and the periods overlap to

some extent, but the divisions are none the less real or characteristic of the age in which they were predominant. In the first period which begins about the time of the Reformation and ends approximately with the Revolution, the suppression of vagrancy and crime among the lower classes was the chief concern of the Government, and the relief of destitution and the provision of work merely subsidiary. For this policy there was no doubt ample justification. The accession of Henry VII. to the throne and the end of the Wars of the Roses led to the disbanding of numbers of men from the rival forces. The dissolution of the monasteries, the substitution of sheep farming for the old arable cultivation, the economic changes brought about by the discovery of the New World, and the financial disturbances caused by the influx of gold into the Old, caused a social upheaval which has been described at length by many writers and it is unnecessary to tell the story again here. It is sufficient to point out that the result was a great increase in the number of landless and unoccupied men who were compelled to seek their living where they could, and who formed the band of vagrants and vagabonds referred to in the laws of the Tudor dynasty (pp. 4 and 10 to 13). Such persons, who were no doubt a menace to society, and a constant hindrance to law and order, were probably found in every riot or rebellion. The policy of the Government was to prevent their collecting in numbers, and the means adopted was to attempt to enforce their residence in their former homes, and to punish severely all migration. There was no thought of relieving distress at first, but as it became evident that many vagrants were in actual need, provision was gradually made for their maintenance. The Poor Law in its origin, therefore, was purely a matter of police regulation and the desire to succour those in distress merely an unavoidable corollary, imposed by necessity, and not dictated by philanthropy. The Tudor sovereigns, moreover, whose aim was to in-

crease the authority of the Crown and central Government, adopted every expedient to weaken the powers of the corporate boroughs which had grown to such strength during the 15th Century, and with this object looked to the Courts Leet and the parishes as the instruments of local government. Hence the long succession of laws which culminated in the famous Act of the 43rd Elizabeth, which laid the foundation of the modern Poor Law, and imposed the duty of relieving distress on the parish. Eden shows clearly how at first it was proposed to secure the funds for this purpose from voluntary contributions, how ecclesiastical admonition failed to open the purses of men who, while free from fear of actual destitution, were no doubt often affected by the prevailing depression—and how at last it was found incumbent to levy a rate. The money thus raised was supposed to be used, among other things, for setting the Poor on work, but as no definite directions were given how that was to be done the instruction was generally ignored, and the strong and the impotent alike received relief when it was applied for. The author of the pamphlet entitled "Bread for the Poor" (p. 25) says indeed that no rates were levied in many places for twenty, thirty, or even forty years after the Act of Elizabeth was enacted, and another writer declared that in many parishes no collection had been made for the Poor for seven years (p. 26), but by the end of the century it was so well established that Poor Relief was obtainable without much question, that men openly boasted that no matter what they did the parish was bound to maintain them (p. 36).

With the beginning of the 18th Century a new era gradually set in, the chief characteristic of which is the decreasing importance attached to the correction of crime or the compulsion of the idle to work, and the increasing importance of schemes for the provision of employment for those who needed it. The old ideas about rogues and vagabonds died hard, and as late as

1744 an Act was passed defining various classes of "rogues" (p. 58), but in this instance as in others the severity of the law defeated itself, and the punishments allotted were seldom inflicted (p. 24). Towards the latter part of the century the subject is hardly mentioned. Instead of this, the conception that it was the duty of the community to find work for all who needed it came to the front, and filled the whole stage, the relief of distress being considered mainly as the provision of some form of maintenance for the very young or the aged, and those who were insane or otherwise unable to work. Trade and industry were rapidly developing and men's thoughts were turned to the possibility of using the labour of the Poor profitably. It was pointed out that the Act of Elizabeth had contemplated the provision of work for the unemployed, and had authorised the purchase of material for the purpose, but as Henry Fielding observed (p. 60) the overseers had been told what they are to do rather than how they shall do it, while as Sir Matthew Hale pointed out, few people are willing to burden the community with a rate sufficient to procure the necessary stock for setting the Poor to work, but prefer to make yearly payments (p. 35). Nor is this surprising. At that period nearly all industry was still carried on in the manufacturers' own home, with his own labour, and that of an occasional journeyman or a couple of apprentices, and the difficulty of supervising such work must have been enough to deter even the most enterprising overseer from undertaking the task. But about this time the increase in the volume of trade had introduced the beginnings of the capitalistic system of industry, if by that term is meant the organisation of labour at a wage for an employer, in place of production directly for the customers who actually purchased the goods. Such a system leads to the collection of the workers under one roof in a "factory" though, of course, in the absence of machinery the modern methods of division of labour were still undeveloped. It is about this time therefore that we

begin to hear of the Workhouse in place of the House of Correction. The first person to organize the industry of the Poor on these lines appears to have been Mr. Thomas Firmin (p. 33), though he realized that a public workhouse was unpopular, and in many cases impracticable. In spite of the failure of his project, a more general scheme was put forward by Mr. Apletre for the County of Worcester (p. 37) and soon after John Locke pointed out that the really important requirement was the proper education of the young in a working school (p. 39) by which of course he meant education in a handicraft. We shall find this idea constantly cropping up through the whole of the 18th Century. No real progress was, however, made till the parishes in Bristol were incorporated by an Act of Parliament, and a joint workhouse erected in which the Poor were not only to be employed, but maintained. This experiment, which, thanks to the energy of Mr. Cary, was for a time very successful, did not contemplate the provision of work for all and sundry, but was at first confined to the employment of one hundred girls, who were lodged and fed at a building known as The Mint (p. 51). The discovery that it was more profitable to spin fine yarn than coarse made the difference between success and failure, and encouraged the officers to attempt similar work with one hundred boys, and then with " the ancient people of the city." But this extension of the scheme caused its downfall and led to its complete abandonment after a few years. About thirty years after the House was opened it was closed and Bristol became a terror to vagrants from the severity of the treatment dealt out to them. Nevertheless the idea of a Parish Workhouse had now caught on and the example of Bristol was imitated in many large and small towns throughout England. The mantle of Mr. Cary fell on the shoulders of Mr. Marryott, of Olney, and his energy and organising capacity produced some striking results. Not only were the Poor housed and set to work in many places, but the

rates in those parishes were for a time materially reduced, partly no doubt due to good management, but chiefly because the unpopularity of these establishments led many applicants who had no objection to parish relief so long as it consisted of a dole to be spent as they liked, to refuse to put themselves under the stern discipline of an 18th Century Workhouse. The list of parishes whose inhabitants are recorded as regarding their Parish Workhouse with fear and loathing is long and only one is mentioned by Eden as being sought after as a desirable place. It is singular that this should belong to two of the outlying parishes of Bristol, where the first experiment had been tried and had failed (p. 191). The reasons for this almost universal dislike will be given later.

In the first half of the 18th Century, therefore, it had become an accepted axiom that the object of a Poorhouse was to set the inmates to work, and that the industry would be profitable if managed properly. Unfortunately the overseers, who in process of time had become the administrators of Poor Relief instead of supervisors, went out of office at the end of each year, and only in rare cases were re-elected. There were no permanent officials to keep up the tradition of policy, and it frequently happened that as at Maidstone (p. 52) the Poor would be employed one year in the linen and another in the woollen industry, merely as it suited the interest of the managers. The law therefore which authorised the churchwardens and overseers of any parish with the consent of the major part of the parishioners in the vestry to " farm " the Poor, though it led to grave abuses, and was subsequently repealed, was no doubt at first a step forward. It introduced an element of stability into the workhouse system which was needed in the interest of the inmates and the ratepayers alike, for there is no doubt it was the more economical system. There was, however, no compulsion to employ the Poor in this manner and no uniformity in the methods adopted. Many parishes still preferred to give the in-

digent a weekly pension without enquiring whether the recipient was capable of maintaining himself, or at least contributing to his own support. This of course was mainly in the smaller and rural parishes, where the applicants were few, and where the opportunities for remunerative work were rare. Examples of this practice in the little parishes are too numerous to need special attention being drawn to them, and it is obvious that so long as such parishes supported their own Poor no other course was open to the overseers. But it is remarkable that a comparatively prosperous town like Trowbridge (p. 347), with 7,000 inhabitants, principally manufacturers of superfine broad cloth and Kerseymere, whose wages were not strikingly depressed, maintained the Poor by a parish allowance at home, and that there was no regular workhouse. At Seend, near Melksham (p.344), there was no House of Industry, nor any regular establishment for the employment of the Poor, who lived in houses belonging to the chapelry. Under the head of Inkborough, in Worcestershire (p. 350), we are told that Workhouses were not generally adopted in the neighbourhood, but relief is given at the caprice of the parish officers. Even some of the parishes of Colchester (p. 188) and one of the parishes of Derby (p. 169) had no Workhouse, though others in the same towns had. Such cases however which are interesting as survivals of what was no doubt the usual custom in the previous century were comparatively rare, and many of even the smaller parishes either had a Workhouse of their own or paid contributions to an adjoining town for the right to send their Poor to a House of Industry if they desired to do so. This plan was adopted in several small places in Cumberland. No less than thirteen rural parishes had the right to send their Poor to Carlisle Workhouse (p. 149). The little parish of Gilcrux (p. 157), with only 207 inhabitants rented part of a Poor-house at Cockermouth for £2 a year. This, we are told, was intended as a check on the class of indigent persons that fell

within the description of "Sturdy Beggars," and no paupers undeservedly necessitous had ever been sent thither. At Hesket (p. 158), with 1,150 inhabitants, a parish meeting was held every month to which the necessitous applied, and were relieved at the discretion of the overseers. If they refused what was offered them, they were sent to the Workhouse at Carlisle, an alternative which they always wished and generally contrived to avoid. In these cases, as in the more famous case of Maidstone (p. 52), the avowed object of a Workhouse was to keep down the rates by deterring the Poor from making application for relief and inducing them to work for themselves, instead of finding work for them. At Portsmouth (p. 197), where complaints were made of the great number of casual Poor, the parish insisted upon applicants going into the House, by which means expenditure was much reduced, not because the Poor were maintained at a cheaper rate there than in their own homes, but because the apprehension of being obliged to mix with various descriptions of indigent people usually found in a large Poor-house deters many from making application. We cease to be surprised at the disinclination of "the modest Poor" to accept relief on these terms when we learn that the house in question was said to be neither well contrived nor well managed. But even where the management was better the result was the same, and Mr. Rainey, the overseer of Bradford-on-Avon, a strenuous advocate for Workhouses, based his support on the ground that they were the best means for keeping down the rates, promoting industry, checking vice and immorality and punishing the idle Poor (p. 344). Dr. Burn indeed, who sometimes let his pen run away with him, went so far as to declare that in many cases the overseers contrived to contract with obnoxious persons of savage disposition for the maintenance of their Poor; not with a view of making their situation more comfortable, but to hold out the Workhouse as a terrible alternative to those who

would not acquiesce in the pittances which the parish officers thought fit to allow them (p 73) Eden records no instance of such brutality, though the policy adopted at Esher (p. 318) of supporting a certain number of old persons of respectable condition by the overseers and leaving the other Poor to the contractor, suggests that the "farmer" was less likely to be sympathetic in his treatment than the parish officers.

In many other places, nevertheless, it was genuinely held that the labour of the inmates of a Workhouse might be utilised profitably both to the community and to the Poor themselves. The methods of employing them, however, differed widely in different places. The simplest and most obvious was to put the Paupers into the hands of a contractor, who undertook to feed and clothe them, in return for a definite sum, together with what he could make out of their earnings. Sometimes the sum was fixed at so much a year, irrespective of the number of persons accommodated; sometimes at so much a head for each person sent into the house. But in every case the contractor was left free to employ the inmates in what manner he would. Such a plan was naturally most often adopted in those counties where the old forms of manufacture, without machinery, were still practised. The "farmer" was generally a local employer of labour who found in the Workhouses a ready supply of "hands" for his industry, who were not in a position to leave their master if his service proved too hard or distasteful. The farmer of the House of Industry at Louth (p. 232) was a wool-comber and a manufacturer of worsted. He employed some of the Poor in combing wool, spinning and knitting worsted, and some in common labour out of the House. He said he provided places for those boys and girls who did not like his business, presumably when the time came for them to leave the Workhouse and support themselves. A worsted manufacturer took charge of the Poor at Spilsby (p. 235), but in this case the earnings were inconsiderable.

At Leicester (p. 228) the Poor were farmed by a stocking manufacturer, who employed them in spinning worsted, etc. They worked in the summer from six in the morning till eight at night, and in winter from seven till nine, mealtimes excepted. It is to be feared that the lot of those who fell into the hands of manufacturing farmers was not happy. Eden points out that the reason why rates are low when the Poor are farmed is obvious. A contractor's object is gain. He allows little to the Poor outside the House, and keeps those in it closely to work, by which means the idle and lazy, and it may be added the modest Poor, often go unrelieved (p. 320).

Even however when the management of the Workhouse was in the hands of the overseers or governors an attempt was often made to employ the inmates, not the children only, but also the adults in some form of industry, and this course was almost invariably adopted in the big towns. Sometimes they were sent out to work for employers, or for the municipality in such occupations as cleaning the streets ; at other times in making articles for use in the House. At the time when Eden wrote the transition had gone so far that the Poor were chiefly employed in these methods at Petersfield (p. 196) and at Oxford (p. 284). But in the latter town while the men were employed in sweeping the streets, the women and children were at work in a sacking factory. In Birmingham various manufactures, chiefly weaving, spinning, wool-combing and flax-dressing, were carried on (p. 325). At Banbury the Poor were employed in spinning, and twisting, for the manufacturers of the town (p. 280). At Newark ten of the children worked at a cotton factory lately erected (p. 274). At Gressinghall the women and children were chiefly employed in spinning worsted for the Norwich manufacturers (p. 249). At Leighton Buzzard the boys were sent out to work for the farmers, while a little lace was made by the women in the House (p. 133). At Reading some of the Poor were sent out to work for the farmers (p. 134). At

Southampton 18 children and four old men worked at a silk mill (p. 199) ; at Hereford the old men and children worked at spinning mop yarn and carding wool for saddles (p. 204), and at Ashford, in Kent, the inmates were principally employed in a bleachery recently established for bleaching Irish linen (p. 208). At Abergavenny a woollen manufacture had been attempted, but on not being found to answer, was discontinued (p. 245). At Newcastle (p. 268) and Sunderland (p. 186) the children were employed in a pin factory, but in the latter place the boys were generally bound apprentices to the sea service. In most places however the young were engaged in knitting and spinning, an occupation which could be of no use to them afterwards, as owing to the introduction of machinery, wages were falling, and the industry was rapidly being superseded while many persons thought the work was detrimental to the children who were made puny and weak by so long a sedentary employment at an early period of life (p. 234). These occupations brought in little or no return either to the parish or the luckless worker, and so trifling were the earnings that in some places such as Hampton, Eden reported that " no kind of work seems going forward." (p. 243).

The more reasonable expedient of employing the Poor in the manufacture of articles used in the House was adopted in several places. At Windsor the linen and stockings used in the Workhouse were made by the inmates (p. 139). At Chesterfield the lint and wool spun were principally for household consumption (p. 169). The bedding and wearing apparel of the Ashby de la Zouch Workhouse were chiefly manufactured in the building (p. 224), and the blankets used at Sheffield were made in the House (p. 362). The great Workhouse in the Isle of Wight used a large part of the goods made there (p. 202), and at Bulcamp, in Suffolk, much of the material worked up by the inmates was retained (p. 311).

In some towns, however, a determined attempt was

made to find the Poor regular employment and to sell the produce in the open market. In spite of the disastrous experience of the early years of the 18th Century the authorities in Bristol seem to have thought municipal trading was possible, and shortly before Eden made his enquiry a factory for spinning wool had been set up in the Workhouse in which £600 were lost. It was then discontinued (p. 190). At Kettering an industry of spinning wool for use in a neighbouring manufactory of tammies was kept up even though the loss was about £40 a year, which the parish had to pay (p. 261). At Ealing the boys were employed in making sacks, which were sold at *2d.* a piece below the usual price at Brentford, and the women and girls in spinning hemp and dressing fine flax for sheeting. The parish made a profit of £90 in one year, but latterly had lost regularly (p. 241). The experience of St. Martin-in-the-Fields was no better. The 573 inmates (473 adults, 100 children) earned £150 at spinning flax, picking hair, and carding wool, but an attempt to start a manufacture failed owing to the badness of the situation for business, the want of room for workshops, and the difficulty of compelling the able Poor to pay proper attention to work (p. 243). A large woollen manufacture was set up in Tiverton in 1740 by voluntary subscription, but it lasted only one year, owing to losses from waste, and inability to find a market for the goods made (p. 175). Elsewhere the Guardians of the Poor had been more fortunate or better managers. By a special Act passed in 1771 all the parishes in the Isle of Wight had combined to support a House of Industry in which a serious attempt was made to carry on a form of manufacture. The rules required all applicants for relief to come into the House, and out-pensions were refused except in very exceptional cases. The building was admirably planned with proper workshops, and the education of the children was adequately attended to. The manufacture consisted chiefly of sacks for coal, flour and biscuit, besides the material

made up for the use of the inmates. The accounts of the establishment, which were examined by Eden or his representative, showed a substantial but decreasing profit if the value of the goods used in the House is taken into reckoning ; and a further income was derived from the spinning of worsted by persons outside the building. But it is clear that Eden was sceptical as to the ultimate value of the experiment. In other parts of England, chiefly in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln and Rutland, a number of parishes, usually those comprised in a hundred, combined to erect and maintain a joint institution known as a House of Industry. To this, as in the Isle of Wight, all applicants for relief were sent and it was contemplated that the inmates should be occupied in some form of manufacture. But in these instances the magistrates went a step further. They undertook the technical education of the children of the hundred in schools where instruction was given them in knitting and spinning, even before any application for parochial aid had been made on their behalf, and they carried their resolution so far that they supplied spinning wheels and instruction gratis and even gave premiums to those children who attained a certain proficiency (p. 291). A rule was also made that no person should receive relief on account of any child above six who could not knit, nor any above nine who could not spin linen or woollen (p. 290). Whether such a decision was legal or not does not seem to have been discussed, but it is evident that the magistrates were satisfied that parochial relief was the reward of labour and that the chief function of the Poor Law was to secure that the Poor should be employed. At Empingham the organisation was in the hands of the overseers (p. 291), at others in the hands of a Governor and Matron. But occasionally these were found to be unfit for their posts, and in his comments on the failure of the Spilsby scheme Eden remarks that the experience of eight years proved that though schools of industry might flourish for a

while under the active zeal of the first promoters, yet when after a few years' trial they are left to the care of less interested administrators, they dwindle into the ordinary state of parish Poor-houses (p. 235).

In most, if not all, of these places therefore, the project of employing the Poor was proving unprofitable, and was gradually being abandoned, while the Work-houses were becoming more and more merely Houses of Maintenance. There was however one town where the organisation was carried to such a pitch of development that it might still be considered successful. The six parishes of Shrewsbury had been united by an Act of Parliament, and a joint House of Industry opened in 1784 (p. 296). The rules which forbade out-pensions were in this case strictly enforced, and in consequence the House was filled with paupers, many of whom were "young and stout" (p. 299). Shrewsbury was a town in which the inhabitants were accustomed to being maintained wholly or in part by the municipality or the charitable, and between 5,000 and 6,000 (exclusive of the regular Poor) out of a population of about 20,000 received charity (pp. 21 and 300). The building seems to have been designed on sound lines, and under the able management of Mr. Wood and his friends this Poor-house became almost a municipal workshop. Those inmates who had been carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, etc., were set to work at their own occupations. Several weavers were constantly employed, and the paupers were instructed by proper persons in scribbling, carding and spinning wool. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the earnings were great (p. 299), and so long as the old conditions of industry prevailed the proceeds from the sale of manufactured goods and a few other sources of income were sufficient to keep the Poor Rate down to £2,992 a year, though before the House had been built the annual sum levied was £4,605. The woollen manufacture, however, was already on the decline (p. 301), and as Sir George Paul in his address

to the magistrates of the county of Gloucester had pointed out, "the working by machine in almost every branch of hard labour has so completely under-valued such work by hand that public expectation should not be raised too high relative to the productive consequences of *forced labour*" (p. 127). Eden adds that a kind of glare which obscures the truth had been thrown upon Workhouses and Houses of Industry, and the saving effected arose really not from the value of the work done but from the decreased expense in accommodation, where a number of the Poor are collected together. Though this truth was as yet only dimly perceived by the majority, and fully appreciated only by clear thinkers like Eden, it was not long before it became manifest to all, and before the 19th Century had advanced far the old system was swept away. The duty of suppressing crime and the punishment of vagrancy was left to the police, the organisation of labour was abandoned, and the scope of the Poor Law and its officials was confined exclusively to the relief of destitution. The Workhouse became, in fact, what the House at Empingham was called—a House of Protection.

Thus far we have followed the development of the Workhouse chiefly from the point of view of the rate-payer and the administrator. We must now see what Eden has to tell us about the conditions under which the Poor were relieved from a different aspect, namely that of the health and happiness of the recipients themselves. It is not necessary to enter into any detail as regards the lot of those who were under the control of the Poor Law in the 16th and 17th Centuries. Information is scanty and deals almost exclusively with those who come under the head of vagrants or vagabonds, that is to say those who for good or evil reasons left their homes and sought their fortune elsewhere. The pages of the historical part of Eden's work show that these unhappy creatures were whipped and branded when their existence became notorious, and were neglected and left

to starve or beg when the rigour of the law was not enforced. The author of *Stanleye's Remedy* (p. 27), says, "I have heard rogues and beggars curse the magistrates unto their faces for providing such a law to whip and brand them, and not provide houses of labour for them." The best that can be said is that toward the end of that period the house rents of the necessitous were probably paid and an allowance of money or food given them to keep them alive. Sometimes, as at Seend, the labouring Poor resided in houses belonging to the parish (p. 345). But the relief was strictly confined to those who had a settlement and strangers were promptly chased away. The methods of the parish beadle are described by Sir Josiah Child (p. 31), and Fielding was probably right when he said that the sufferings of the Poor are less observed than their misdeeds. They starve and freeze and rot among themselves, but they beg and steal and rob among their betters (p. 61). Even till the end of the 18th Century, as we have already seen, there were many parishes where the destitute were wholly maintained at home by a system of doles, and it needs but little knowledge of human nature or experience of the houses of the really poor to know that so long as they were supported by charity or external relief their standard of living tended to sink and their homes to become more and more insanitary and filthy. We shall find indirect evidence that the dwellings of many of the Poor during the early part of the 18th Century were squalid and, to modern ideas, disgusting. This state of things seems to have been dimly appreciated at the time, and when it became the fashion to bring the Poor into Workhouses or Houses of Industry, a serious attempt was made to improve their sanitary conditions and to secure cleanliness in person and neatness in dress. But the standard of the age was not high, and we find abundant evidence in the Parochial Reports collected by Eden of the state of the smaller and less well managed workhouses, which though revolting to modern readers,

is recorded with little more than mild condemnation, in no way comparable to Eden's denunciations of attacks on personal liberty. In some places no order or system of any kind prevailed. At Alford an old woman who was almost a pauper, was governess of the house. She was often opposed by very clamourous competitors for power, and was scarcely able to retain the reins of government, much less to enforce good order and industry. That neatness which discovers itself in some workhouses was not to be found here (p. 230). At Knighton the Workhouse was under a governess who was perfectly incompetent to enforce obedience. The Poor seldom obeyed her, and even among themselves they had continual disputes (p. 372). At Abergavenny there was a sort of Poor-house where no master was kept and such Poor as could not procure a residence elsewhere were put there with an allowance to support themselves (p. 245). At Blandford there was no regular master or mistress, but two paupers had the care of the Workhouse in the absence of the overseers (p. 176), and at Brixworth a sort of Poorhouse was established in 1794, in which some of the Poor resided without the control of a master, the parish allowing them necessaries (p. 260). The condition of these places can be guessed from what we learn about other and better managed establishments. Even where some attempt was made to secure the semblance of discipline the task of maintaining the inmates in decency and comfort must have been difficult. In the first place the buildings were frequently most unsuitable. The house at Presteign was frankly described as a "most wretched hovel," though in a fine situation (p. 373). The two buildings at Norwich which had formerly been a palace of the Duke of Norfolk, and a monastery respectively, were in many respects extremely unfit for the purpose to which they were applied. The latter more especially was dark and confined (p. 254). The Poor-ouse at Louth though built in 1791 was not on a good lan, the staircases being narrow and steep, and the

entrance was not 4ft. wide (p. 232), while at Ealing it was a small inconvenient building, very ill adapted to the purpose (p. 240). Even in a town like Wolverhampton the Workhouse was an inconvenient building with small windows, low rooms and dark staircases. It was surrounded with a high wall that gave it the appearance of a prison and prevented free circulation of air (p. 310). Halifax had an old small inconvenient building (p. 355); Leeds an old building in the town (p. 359), and the Guardians' report on the Workhouse at Oxford before they reformed it describes it as being dirty, unsweet, in a miserable state of repair, and singularly badly arranged (p. 286). Most of the large towns, however, had swept away their old buildings by the time that Eden wrote, or had improved them on the same lines as those adopted at Oxford. At Bradford-on-Avon the building had been much improved by Mr. Rainey, the general overseer (p. 343). Farnham, in Surrey, had build a new house in 1791 on a good plan in an excellent situation, about half a mile from the town. The old building stood in the town and is said to have been a most wretched one (p. 319). Most of the houses favourably commented on by Eden appear to have been new. There is strong presumptive evidence therefore that the majority at least of the houses in use during the earlier part of the century were unsuitable and bad. From the fact that it is especially stated with regard to these new buildings that the males and females were lodged in different quarters there is reason to fear that in the older ones men and women were herded together. (See Oxford, p. 285).

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that many of the Poor-houses were unclean. At North Shields, though the building stood in an airy situation, and was built on a pretty good plan, it was found to be dirty (p. 272) while at Spilsby it was not as clean as it ought to be, and in addition was much out of repair, though the contractor lived on the premises (p. 235).

But then, as Eden says in his report on Stanhope (p. 184), most of those in the hands of a contractor were dirty. The same fault however was found with many houses where the Poor were not farmed, and where in consequence a profit was not the immediate concern of those responsible for the conditions of the inmates. Bristol Workhouse, which was built for another purpose, and therefore not convenient, impressed visitors with a want of cleanliness (p. 190). At Leighton Buzzard the House, although in an excellent situation, did not appear to be very cleanly (p. 133). At Preston, white-washing and other means of keeping the House clean seemed rather neglected (p. 221), and at Oxford the House was exceedingly dirty (p. 285). The Norwich Workhouse exhibited rather an uncleanly appearance (p. 254), while at Coventry the staircases and passages appeared to be seldom swept. The different apartments were very dirty and the walls wanted whitewashing (p. 328), a complaint which was also made about the inconvenient building at Wolverhampton (p. 310). These defects were the more serious because Eden mentions several houses which were old, such as Leeds (p. 359), or not well situated or well aired, such as Leicester (p. 228), which were kept very clean and neat. At the former place the House was whitewashed and the bedclothes scoured once a year. At Hull the House was built about the beginning of the 18th Century, and was therefore probably old-fashioned in design, but the rooms were washed and the bedclothes well aired once a week and the beds all taken down once a year. The great Mr. Howard confessed that the neatness and cleanliness of the Poor-house were a credit to the town (p. 357). In spite of their structural defects the Houses at Wirksworth (p. 172), Portsea (p 197), and Northampton (p. 263), are commended for their cleanliness, and in several other places where more convenient buildings had been erected the greatest care was taken to ensure neatness and freedom from dirt.

The insanitary condition of some of these establishments was made inevitable by a grave defect of management. In some of the Workhouses the inmates were not required to have their meals in a common dining room but were allowed to take their food up into their bedrooms. This practice, which led to the storage of articles of diet, for it was customary for the inmates to sell their food outside the House, or exchange it for spirits or beer, naturally made the sleeping apartments unsavoury and filthy, but it does not seem to have been considered as objectionable as it would be at the present time. At Leeds it was forbidden, but in general the stores when delivered were carried up to the lodging rooms (p. 360) and at Norwich, though the Committee which introduced so many reforms suggested that it should be stopped, the proposal was rejected (p. 257). It was probably customary in many other places, for in spite of attempts to prevent it, the practice continued up to the time of the first Poor Law Commission. Matters were made worse by the smallness of many of the bedrooms, the large number of beds crowded into each room, and the number of occupants of each bed. At Sheffield, where the staircases in the Workhouse were narrow and steep, the lodging rooms were only 9ft 6in. square as a rule, and contained two beds each. As two, three, and sometimes four paupers slept in a bed, and they were allowed to carry their breakfasts and suppers to their rooms, the conditions that prevailed there can be easily imagined (p. 362). Even where the accommodation was greater the number of beds was excessive, 12 to 15 at Bristol (p. 190), 15 to 16 at Chester (p. 145), 15 to 16 at Yarmouth (p. 259), and even at the new House at Melton, where "the greatest neatness" prevailed in the hall and dormitories, and the beds were placed at a proper distance from each other, some apartments contained 16 to 18 beds. As Eden says, "Half the number would be better" (p. 313). Nor did the overcrowding stop at this point. In most cases two persons slept in each

bed, often three, and as we have seen in the case of Sheffield sometimes four. At Kettering three inmates slept in a bed, though there were only 100 persons in a house which could hold 200 (p. 261). At Gressinghall the apartments were lofty and well aired, but there were 20 beds in each room, and three persons to each bed (p. 250), while at Ealing when the House was full there were four men to each bed (p. 240). At Nottingham, where the House was surrounded by other buildings, mostly much higher, so that the free current of air was completely obstructed, and the rooms were close, three and sometimes four persons slept together (p. 276). These beds were stuffed with feathers, straw, chaff, or flocks, which as Eden says, are "retentive of ill scents and very productive of vermin" (p. 310). As a result many of these Poor-houses were much infested with bugs, and other parasites, such as Chester (p. 145), Bristol (p. 190), Leicester (p. 228), Gressinghall (p. 251), and, of course, Wolverhampton (p. 310), and Coventry (p. 328), where the governors had been driven to the purchase of iron bedsteads. The prevalence of vermin naturally led to the spread of disease, but in the older Workhouses no sick ward was provided, and in general the patients were kept in the same room as the other inmates. At Louth, it is true, they were partitioned off, but as Eden says, the sense of hearing must frequently convey very disagreeable ideas, and the smell frequently be offensive (p. 232). At Yarmouth there were two rooms for the sick, well aired, but not distinct from the main building, but the great number of people sleeping in a room close together must have led to many disagreeable circumstances besides the general injury to health (p. 259). That this was certainly the case is proved by the experience of North Shields, where a fever prevailed (p. 272), at Sunderland, where it had done so for some time back (p. 186), at Nottingham (p. 277), and at Manchester, where a malignant fever was raging with great violence, rendering it unsafe to enter, so that

particulars of the work and diet of the Poor could not be obtained (pp. 218-9). No account of the births or deaths at Wolverhampton was kept but it was admitted that when small pox, measles, or malignant fever made their appearance the mortality was very great (p. 310). At Kendal when a fever prevailed in 1791, 33 inmates died, while the number of deaths was only 15 in the two following years, and 10 in 1794 (p. 334).

In other respects, too, the beds were unsatisfactory. As a rule they were provided with two sheets, a blanket and a coverlet. But at Sunderland (p. 186), and at Wirksworth (p. 172) they had two blankets, one sheet, and one rug. At Monmouth one sheet but no blankets, though some were preparing "against next winter" (p. 246), while at Leeds most of the beds had two blankets and a rug. Some beds had sheets (p. 359). The bed clothes in the house were scoured once a year. Even in model houses like those of Shrewsbury (p. 298), and Melton (p. 315), clean sheets were provided only once a month, though in the former place oftener "if necessary." At Bishop's Castle both beds and bedclothes were very old, (p. 294), and at Buckingham new furniture was wanted (p. 141). Under these circumstances it is hardly to be wondered at that the Poor had generally a dislike to come into the Workhouse (p. 146), or that many distressed families preferred the chance of starving among friends and neighbours in their native village, to the mortifying alternative of being well fed, well lodged, and well clothed in a Poor-house, the motley receptacle of idiots and vagrants (p. 150). But if our sympathies are with the "modest Poor" who were driven by necessity to accept these conditions as the price of maintenance, what are we to say about the lot of the wives and children of the Militia men and the soldiers who were fighting for their country, many of whom may perhaps never have needed parish relief till their husbands and fathers went away, and for whom the government of the day had nothing better to offer than the treatment which every

parish dealt out, according to the caprice of the overseers, to any verminous tramp who presented himself at the Workhouse door ?

It must not of course be supposed that all Workhouses were as unsatisfactory as those described above. It is evident that the public conscience was gradually being roused to the condition under which the " legal Poor " were housed and maintained, and efforts were being made during the latter part of the 18th Century to introduce some element of comfort as well as proper sanitary precautions into the parochial establishments. A large number of Poor-houses are described by Eden as being as clean as circumstances permit. At Hereford the beds were kept tolerably clean (p. 204) ; at Bury the House upon the whole seemed clean and neat (p. 213) ; at Lancaster neatness and regularity were much attended to (p. 215), and at Northampton the house was clean and neat, and the Poor lived there comfortably under the direction of a very proper person (p. 263). At St. Andrews, Newcastle, the House was remarkably clean (p. 269) ; at Sutton Coldfield tolerably so (p. 331), and at Kendal it was kept with great neatness and propriety (p. 333). Mr. Howard's encomium on Hull has already been referred to, and at Chesterfield he suggested some alterations for rendering the rooms airy which were adopted (p. 169), a proof that not much fault was to be found there. But others were even better. Newark Workhouse moved Eden to describe it as one of the very best in England, and both within and without it exhibited a degree of comfort and cleanliness that was seldom met with, special provision being made for such persons as have been reduced in circumstances, and their situation received every attention that humanity could dictate (pp. 274-5). At Liverpool special provision was made for old people in a most judicious manner, so that they could enjoy even in a Workhouse in some degree the comfort of a private fireside (p. 217). At Ellesmere an instance of feeling attention to misfortune which is not often to be

met with in Houses of Industry was shown in the provision of special apartments for persons who have borne a fair character, and have been undeservedly reduced from such circumstances and obliged to seek parish relief (p. 295). In several places the improved conditions are directly ascribed to the influence of the master or overseer. At Petersfield the standing overseer paid every attention to the wants of the necessitous, and administered the concerns of the parish with fidelity and discrimination (p. 196). He was, however, unpopular among the Poor, and several attempts had been made to burn his house down. At Leeds Mr. Linsley, the master, was more fortunate, for in spite of the defects of the building and its scanty equipment, he achieved a success by his humane disposition and firm even temper, which made him beloved, respected and obeyed with cheerfulness and (what is seldom to be met with in houses of this description) the Poor under his care lived in perfect harmony among themselves (p. 361). The Houses of Industry built by the incorporated parishes under Gilbert's Act were built and equipped on the latest model known at that time and very little fault could be found with their design, construction or maintenance. Not only were they kept in a proper state of cleanliness, but suitable provision was made for cases of sickness. Elaborate rules were laid down and precautions taken against the introduction or spread of vermin and disease which in many respects could not be improved on, but, as Eden says, in houses of this description much more depends on the conduct of the governor than the weekly Committees or the ablest code of regulations the corporation can devise. A governor and matron who know how to blend firmness with humanity are invaluable servants and can not be too liberally rewarded (p. 311). It is some satisfaction to think that Eden came across several such persons in the course of his enquiries and that it is possible that the lot of the dependent Poor may have been made happier by their sympathetic and kindly management.

Very little information can be extracted from Eden's report as to the homes of the independent Poor. The insides of the cottages near Kendal exhibited every appearance of misery (p. 333) and the Poor at Banbury in general appeared to be in a very miserable state (p. 280). At Cockerington and in several adjoining parishes in Lincolnshire the cottages were very small, made of clay, and thatched with straw, but the inmates appeared to be much more cleanly in their persons and houses than similar persons in the North of England (p. 231). Many of the cottages on the East Coast of Yorkshire were miserable hovels built of mud and straw (p. 120). But with regard to the diet of the wage-earner as well as of the inmate of the Poor-house our information is very full. In some places the labouring classes who did not receive parish relief, and many of those who received out-pensions, were often underfed, and in the years of scarcity when Eden made his enquiry, were at times on the verge of starvation. At Ecclesfield it was not uncommon for the Poor to dine partly on nettles, which they boiled and seasoned with a little salt and pepper (p. 353), and at Presteign some of the applicants for relief were in such a state of distress that they actually fell down in the house of the parish officer through hunger (p. 374). The vestry clerk at Bradford-on-Avon had an income from all sources of £64 10*s*. a year, but the bread he bought for his family cost £39 a year and he found it very difficult to provide clothes for them. It is not to be wondered at that a labourer with 8*s*. or 9*s*. a week who endeavoured to maintain a large family on bread should be often half starved and half naked (p. 344). Many other instances of extreme distress can be found in the statements respecting the family budgets, a list of which is given at the end of this book. And if any further evidence were needed, the stories of large subscriptions collected in many towns for the benefit of the Poor, the reduced prices at which food was sold by Poor Law Authorities and farmers to

their labourers, the system devised by the Berkshire magistrates and adopted more or less faithfully elsewhere, for assisting workers with families exceeding three, would be sufficient to show the general poverty and to vindicate the means taken to cope with it. But as Eden very properly points out, the time in which he wrote was one of exceptional severity, the distresses of the Poor unusually great, and the sums expended on their relief beyond all former example, and he believed that the condition of the day labourers would otherwise have been better than they were in the "good old days" (p. 111). He was convinced that that portion of the community which consists of those who are emphatically called the labouring classes must have considerably bettered its condition in the course of the 18th Century (p. 84).

In the Workhouses, however, the Poor were generally exceedingly well fed. The case of Sebergham, a remote parish in Cumberland, where the magistrates refused their acquiescence to a contractor, who had not allowed sufficient victuals to the Poor under his control (p. 161) has often been quoted. But the fact that this appears to have been unique is rather a proof that the interests of the Poor were not neglected as a rule.

A large number of statements of the food provided in different Workhouses on each day of the week is given by Eden, and in every one mid-day meals of meat figure generally three times a week, and sometimes more often. Even where no regular rotation was followed they were usually allowed on certain days (pp. 142 and 207). The meat provided was usually beef, but occasionally mutton (New Windsor, p. 139), and even veal (Kettering, p. 262) were served. Pork and bacon appeared on the table in the Isle of Wight (p. 201), and Petersfield (p. 196). At St. Martin-in-the-Fields mackerel and salmon were supplied once in the season (p. 244), and in North Shields fish was a usual part of the Poor-house diet (p. 272). The bread was generally

white wheaten bread, at any rate in the South, for in the North oaten bread was a common article of diet, and at Sunderland it was mixed with rye (p. 186). Suet dumplings were frequently served, and bread and cheese formed the usual supper. Potatoes and vegetables of other sorts appeared on the table in many places, and beer was generally supplied. Milk, or dishes compounded with it, was common, and many old people must have consumed more of this substance in the Workhouse than they had enjoyed in the rest of their lives, for in many places it was almost unobtainable. Butter was given to adults as well as to children with their bread in many places, but in others it seems to have been denied them, for we learn that at Shrewsbury, although there was a dairy farm with 20 cows attached to the House, all the butter except what little was used by the sick, was sold (p. 299), and at Lancaster it was consumed by the sick and the governor and governess alone (p. 215). The weekly bill of fare does not seem to have varied much, but in certain places modifications were made when high prices began to rule in the market. At Sutton Coldfield, when the " present scarcity of bread took place," meat was cooked every day with an unusual quantity of potatoes instead of only thrice a week (p. 331). At Ashby-de-la-Zouch potatoes and vegetables had been generally substituted for bread (p. 224), and at Lichfield on account of the scarcity of bread and flour, the puddings and bread and cheese dinners which were given three days a week were discontinued, and meat and vegetables or broth and cold meat were substituted every day except Saturday (p. 307). At Wolverhampton no bread was allowed on the days when broth and beer were given for dinner (p. 310),and at Newcastle the allowance of bread was reduced from 10oz. to 7oz. (p. 269).

In spite of the high prices and scarcity of provisions, however, no attempt seems to have been made to curtail the supplies of food unduly. At Hampton the food was

wholesome and good, and certainly much better than a labouring man could afford his family. Meat was served every day with vegetables from the garden, and the female paupers, not content with this ample allowance of food, would have been riotous without tea every morning (pp. 242-3). At Halifax those who worked out of doors, in the kitchen or other house business, had meat dinners every day (p. 355), and at Alcester the diet was extremely good (p. 325). At Sutton Coldfield the Poor were not stinted to a limited quantity at dinner (p. 331), and at Kendal the allowance of bread was very plentiful (p. 333). The provisions at Epsom were plentiful, wholesome and good (p. 316), and at St. Albans every grown person was allowed to eat till he was satisfied (p 206) At Esher, where the bill of fare was varied with the consent of the Poor, according to the season, the inmates were not stinted to any particular quantity (p. 318). In many places a liberal allowance was weighed out to each inmate at dinner, but at Northampton the victuals were not weighed, and the Poor had generally as much bread and meat as they could eat (p. 263). The same is said of Newark, where, however, the inmates were not allowed to take anything away (p. 275), a practice which was adopted by the Poor at Wolverhampton (p. 310), in order that they might enjoy meat every day. At Melton, where the food of the grown-up inmates was weighed, the children received as much victuals as they could eat (p. 313), and at Gressinghall the share of bread at supper seemed abundantly sufficient, though the pieces of cheese were small (p. 250). Indeed, it is clear from the state of things at Norwich (p. 255), and elsewhere, that the supply of food was generally abundant to excess, and led to waste.

But if the supply of food was excellent for ordinary occasions, seasons of festivity were not forgotten. At Carlisle on Christmas Day the Poor were allowed roast mutton, plum pudding, best cheese and ale (p. 150).

At Stapleton on the same day and on Whit Sunday, baked veal and plum pudding was provided (p 193) Ealing celebrated Easter with mutton instead of beef, and for two days at Christmas strong beer and tobacco were given (p. 240). St. Martin's was even more generous, and supplied grey pease and bacon on Shrove Tuesday, buns on Good Friday, roast beef on Christmas Day, pork and pease pudding on New Year's Day, and plum cake on Holy Thursday (p. 244). Leeds regaled its paupers at Easter and Whitsuntide with veal and bacon, and roast beef at Christmas, while at each of these seasons each pauper received one pound of the spiced cake for which Yorkshire is famous (p. 360). Sheffield offered its Poor veal, bacon and plum pudding at Easter and Whitsuntide only (p. 363). These occasions must have been looked forward to by the children to whom the regular though abundant diet the rest of the year no doubt grew wearisome and monotonous. It is much to be wished that we had any assurance that the children of the independent Poor fared half as well. In Kent and probably in most parts of England at that time, the labouring classes seldom tasted meat in winter, except in a Poor-house (p. 208).

With this sketch of the conditions of the Poor in the Workhouses of the 18th Century our examination of the reports collected by Sir Frederic Eden must be brought to an end. But the material for further study is by no means exhausted. The student will find abundant evidence for reconstructing the yearly expenditure of the labouring Poor, not only from the budgets of individual workers, but from the cost of maintaining the inmates of the Workhouses, when under the charge of a contractor, or in the care of the master or the overseers. It has not been possible to broach the question of the consumption of alcohol, on which Eden supplies so much information, nor to calculate the real burden of the Poor Rate in different parts of England. The influence of the friendly societies on the welfare of

the working classes has been left without comment or criticism, and the student will find many other subjects for closer enquiry and investigation scattered through the pages of even this abridgement of the State of the Poor. To those who wish to learn more about the conditions of the working classes at the beginning of the great war with France, a detailed and careful study of Eden's work will provide ample material.

A. G. L. ROGERS.

Mount Skippet,
Ramsden, Oxfordshire.

EDEN'S STATE OF THE POOR

BOOK I

HISTORY OF THE POOR FROM THE CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT PERIOD

CHAPTER I

THE natural produce of the soil is not fully adequate to our subsistence, and a portion of society must be indefatigably employed to supply the necessary wants of the whole. Of the others, some, at least, who can abundantly command all the necessaries of life, owe their superior advantages to the industry of others. It is not the possession of land or money, but the command of labour that distinguishes the opulent from the labouring part of the community. It is true that professional men may be called labourers in the strict sense of the term, but the rich have this consolation, that they can seldom be deprived of the necessities of life, while the labouring poor cannot, in time of stress, anticipate their future earnings. They also suffer from periodic lack of employment, and are in infancy and old age, as well as when afflicted by sickness or other casualty, unable to earn their living. To such, and even to the idle, under certain restrictions, the law of England has assigned a competent provision exacted from the more opulent part of the community. This law has been so modified as sometimes, and in some respects, well nigh to have lost sight of its first aims and intentions, and it may be questioned whether the indigent classes are now proportionably less numerous or less miserable than

they were formerly ; whether they have been benefited by Poor-houses, Houses of Industry, and Friendly Societies ; and in what degree the present system and administration of our Poor Laws affect either the progress of industry or the blessings of domestic life. This cannot be decided without enquiry into many minute circumstances which have been generally overlooked by theoretical reasoners.

The greatest praise that can be given to any government is a statement that there is employment for all, that their cottages are comfortable, their food wholesome, and their children well clothed. The prosperity of a country depends on the welfare of its labouring Poor, and no estimate can be formed of its population, industry, strength, virtue, and happiness without considering their condition. An enquiry, however, would be misleading without tracing the progress of society, a task which will help to decide the question whether the modern worker receives a better recompense for his labour, and a larger share of necessaries and comforts, than his forefathers did. But as in nature so in human institutions, incongruous elements become harmonized by time, and at length act with co-operation, and the various provisions of the Poor Laws are so peculiarly interwoven with many excellent, and, perhaps with many defective institutions, that it becomes extremely difficult to say whether it is their joint or separate influence that effects the community, and still more to say that a radical alteration will correct the evil complained of.

If we except the baronial proprietors of land and their vassals, the free tenants and socmen, the rest of the nation for a long time after the Conquest was in a state of servitude. Slavery began to decrease after the Conquest, and the influence of the Church was on the side of liberty, though the monastic establishments were among the last to release their villein tenants. But the Statute of Labourers, passed in 1350, is the

great turning point in English history, inasmuch as it specifically notices the class of free labourers, who had only recently come into existence, but were greatly increased in number owing to the necessity the king was under during his long wars with France to manumit many of his villeins to recruit his exhausted armies.

Nevertheless, before the end of the fourteenth century, civilization and the comforts attendant on order and industry, had made considerable progress in England, and in 1400 the great mass of the people were, in comparison with their forefathers at the Conquest, rich, thriving, and independent.

To the growth of civilization, however, and the development of commerce may be ascribed the introduction of a new class of men, henceforward described by the Legislature as the Poor, by which presumably is meant freemen, who by reason of sickness, old age, or other causes, are unable to get work, and are obliged to look to the charitable for subsistence. It is impossible that such a term could be applied to those who are still in servitude, since the master is bound to maintain his slave. The answer to Rousseau's enquiry: "Why is it that in a thriving city the Poor are so miserable, while such extreme distress is hardly ever experienced in those countries where there are no instances of extreme wealth?" is that in cities people are poor because they are more independent than in the country. It is one of the natural consequences of freedom that those who are left to shift for themselves must sometimes be reduced to want. Dr. Johnson's remarks on marriage and celibacy may perhaps be applied with propriety to freedom and servitude: the one has many pains, the other no pleasures.

The decrease of villeinage seems necessarily to have been the era of the origin of the Poor. Without, therefore, disparaging the benefits of commerce the result of this investigation seems to lead to the inevitable conclusion that manufactures and commerce are the true

parents of our national Poor. The obligation to relieve the distressed, which was exercised by the lord to his villeins in the earlier ages, was by an act of 1388 transferred to the district where the Poor were obliged to reside, and in this Statute may be seen the outlines of a system of compulsory maintenance, which is commonly believed to have originated in consequence of the Reformation. The law of 1601, however highly praised for its originality, is nothing more than the development of an ancient system, and a more perfect organization of local regulations, that from lapse of time had become impolitic or impracticable. Further laws were passed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

The law of 1496 recounts the "great charges that grow to the King's subjects for bringing of vagabonds to the gaols, and the long abiding of them therein, whereby, by likelihood, many of them should lose their lives," and orders that instead of being committed to the common gaols there to remain until they find surety to enter into service, vagabonds, idle and suspected persons should be set in the stocks three days and three nights, and have no sustenance but bread and water, and afterwards set at large and obliged to leave the town. For a second offence in the same township, they were to remain in the stocks six days and nights, and to be fed on bread and water, and any persons giving them other meat and drink while they remained there, were subject to a penalty of 12*d*. It was also enacted that every beggar, not able to work, should go, rest, and abide in the hundred where he was best known, or born, on pain of like punishment.

By the 19th Hen. VII. c. 12 the penalty of three days in the stocks was reduced to one day, with the obligation to depart to the city, town, place, or hundred where the culprit was born, or else to the place where he last dwelled or resided for the space of three years. The next act (22 Hen. VIII. c. 12) was passed in 1530. Beggars were divided into two classes, viz., the aged

and impotent, and vagabonds and idle persons, the first of whom were to be licensed by the justices of the peace to beg in certain districts under penalty of imprisonment in the stocks for two days, and an obligation to return immediately to their proper districts. Impotent persons begging without a licence were to be taken up, whipped, and set in the stocks, according to the discretion of the justices, and sworn to beg only in such places as the justices should point out. A vagabond, whole and mighty in body, who should be found begging, was to be whipped till his body was bloody by reason of such whipping, and then sworn to return to the place where he was born, or last dwelt for three years, and there put himself to labour.

Five years later another Act was passed (27 Hen. VIII. c. 25) the preamble of which states, "That it was not provided by the Act, above quoted, how poor people, and sturdy vagabonds should be ordered at their repair and coming into their countries, nor how the inhabitants of every hundred should be charged for their relief, nor yet for the setting and keeping in work and labour the said valiant beggars at their repair into every hundred of this realm." From these expressions it is clear that compulsory maintenance was contemplated, though a regular tax for the purpose was not imposed.

The Act provided that on the arrival of "such poor creatures," the officials and householders of the district should "charitably receive the same" and should "succour, find and keep them by voluntary and charitable alms, so that none shall be compelled to go openly in begging, on pain that every parish making default shall pay 20*s.* a month. The mayors and other head officers of cities and towns corporate, and the churchwardens, or two others of every parish, shall collect such alms with boxes every Sunday, holiday, or other festival day, or otherwise, so that the poor, impotent, lame, feeble, sick, and diseased, not being able to work, might be relieved, so that none of them be suffered to go

openly in begging. Preachers and other clergy are to exhort people to be liberal in their contributions towards the relief of the said poor, and for setting and keeping to work the able poor."

Further, " for the avoiding of all such inconveniences and infections as often times and daily do chance among the people by common and open doles, and that commonly unto such doles many persons do resort which have no need of the same," the giving of private relief in money was forbidden " on pain to forfeit ten times as much," and all persons and bodies-politic that be bound to distribute ready money, bread, victual, or other sustentation to the poor shall dispose of the same or the value thereof to such common boxes. In order to prevent any misappropriation of the funds thus collected, the churchwardens, " calling unto them six or four of their honest neighbours, shall have power every quarter or oftener to command every collector to render account of all sums thus collected and how employed, and if any default is found they are to carry the offender before a justice, who shall commit him till he have paid back the same, and also 6*s.* 8*d.* for a penalty, and books shall be kept in every parish of the money collected, and how, upon whom, and in what wise the same was disposed of. Two or three times in every week, two or three of every parish, by the assignment of the mayor, governor or constable, some in one week, and some in another, shall appoint certain of the said poor, to collect broken meats and the refuse drink, of every householder which shall be distributed evenly among the poor, as they by their discretions shall think good."

Constables, churchwardens, or the collectors of the said alms, " which shall at any time forbear their own business and labour and shall travel or take any pains in the execution of this Act, shall have such competent wages of the money of the said collections, as by discretion of the mayor, justices and other of the parish

shall be thought reasonable, which shall be appointed to them at the making of their accounts before the whole parish. The money thus collected is to be kept in the common coffer or box in the church, or else shall be committed to the custody of any other substantial trusty man, as they can agree upon where it may be delivered as necessity shall require; and no church-warden or collector shall continue in the said office above the space of one year." The overplus of the collection of rich and wealthy parishes shall be devoted towards the sustentation of the charges of other poor parishes in the same town or hundred by the discretion of the mayor, justices and high constable of the same. Provided that when the voluntary alms are insufficient the district is not to be liable to the penalty of 20*s.* a month, "nor be constrained to any such certain contribution" if what is collected be justly distributed. Finally, a clause is added exempting existing charities in monasteries, alms houses, hospitals, or other foundations or brotherhoods "by any good authority or ancient custom," all persons relieving shipwrecked sailors, and any person that riding, going, or passing by the way shall after his conscience or charity give money, to lame, blind or sick, aged or impotent people. A ruffler or a valiant beggar, however, as he could have no visible means of subsistence during his journey to the place of his birth or place where he resided for the last three years, should be at liberty at the end of every ten miles to repair to any constable of a parish in his direct road, and on producing a testimonial of his having been whipped and passed to his own country, should be entitled to meat, drink and lodging for one night only or for one meal. If, however, he offend again he is to be whipped once more, and have the upper part of the gristle of his right ear cut clean off. For any further offence he was liable to "suffer pains and execution of death as a felon, and as an enemy of the commonwealth."

Whatever may have been the benefits ultimately derived from the Reformation, it seems certain that the immediate results were disastrous for the labouring classes of society, and especially for those to a study of whom this book is devoted, namely, the Poor. The dissolution of the monasteries, though doubtless an event which had long been foreshadowed, and perhaps inevitable, was carried out in such a manner as to produce great hardship.

In the first place, by converting 50,000 monks, unaccustomed to the active exertions of industry, into miserable pensioners, there was a necessary increase of that class of which the Legislature had so often complained as a most grievous calamity. It has also been observed that among the bad effects of monasticism not the least was the support and maintenance of a very numerous and very idle Poor, who depended upon the daily distribution of charity. When the monasteries were dissolved the inconvenience of thus encouraging the Poor in indolence and beggary was quickly felt, and many statutes were passed in the reign of Henry the Eighth for providing for the Poor and Impotent, which, as the preambles to some of them recite, had of late years strangely increased. Notwithstanding this, it is doubtful whether the monasteries generally had greatly troubled themselves with relieving Poor that did not immediately belong to their own demesnes, The same sort of charity was usually practised by the great nobility on their estates. The abbies were more burthened with the Rich than with the Poor, and sheriffs and other great men often travelled from abbey to abbey with great retinues, and not infrequently at their departure extorted considerable sums from the abbot.

Some of the Commissioners who visited the abbies petitioned the King to spare them, and declared that the Poor received from them great relief and the Rich good education, and the Bill for the suppression of the

colleges and chantries passed in the reign of Edward VI. promised that the estates of these foundations should be converted to good and godly uses, erecting grammar schools, augmenting the universities, and providing for the poor and needy. The rapacity of the courtiers rendered this impracticable, and it may be doubted whether the manner in which the monasteries were suppressed did not counteract any advantage which might have resulted therefrom.

The violent and forcible removal of property from its previous owners is a measure of very dubious policy, and in this case the evils were immediate and the benefits promised slow. The inconveniences of mortmain tenure might well have been removed, but it must be remembered that prior to the Restraining Act (1 Eliz., c. 19), lands belonging to the Church were as much, if not more, exposed to alienation than a lay inheritance. The advantages derived from the transfer of monastic property to noblemen were still more problematical. The revenues were usually consumed within a large circle of tenants, and on the spot, but the land when in the hands of noblemen were still shackled with the *mortmain* (if I may use the expression) *of family settlements*, and their produce was usually consumed by absentees. The abbots were indulgent landlords, and their tenants found their rents raised by the new owners, while they had not the same facility in disposing of the produce. The money was spent in the capital, and farmers at a distance were exposed to the oppression of their new masters, or the still greater rapacity of their stewards. The injury sustained from the expulsion of large societies, who not only farmed themselves but consumed a considerable part of their tenants' produce, may be gathered from the inventory of the stores of Fountains Abbey at the dissolution. They were 2,356 cattle, 1,326 sheep, 86 horses, 79 swine, while on the demesne lands there were 117 qrs. wheat, 12 qrs. rye, 134 qrs. oats, 392 loads

of hay, and in the granaries 18 qrs. wheat, 18 qrs. barley, 90 qrs. barley and malt, and 2 qrs. oats.

Very early in Edward VI.'s reign (1 Ed. VI., c 3) the Legislature reiterated the old complaints against "idleness and vagabondrie." They conceived "that the godly acts which had hitherto been framed on the subject had not the successe which might have been wished," that it was partly ascribable to the "foolish pitie and mercie of those who should have seen the said godly lawes executed, and partly owing to the perverse nature and long accustomed idleness of the persons given to loytering"; and thought that if "the vagabonds who were unprofitable members, or rather enemies of the commonwealth, were punished by death, whipping, imprisonment, and with other corporal pains, it were not without their deserts." It was therefore enacted "That if any man, or woman, able to work should refuse to labour, and live idly for three days, that he, or she, should be branded with a red hot iron on the breast with the letter V, and should be adjudged the slaves, for two years, of any person who should inform against such idler. And the master was directed to feed his slave with bread and water or small drink and such refuse meat as he should think proper; and to cause his slave to work, by beating, chaining, or otherwise in such work and labour (*how vile so ever it be*) as he should put him unto," and the Statute adds that "if he runs away from his master for the space of 14 days, he shall become *his slave for life*, after being branded on the forehead or cheek with the letter S; and if he runs away a second time and shall be convicted thereof by two sufficient witnesses, he shall be taken as a felon, and suffer *pains of death*, as other felons ought to do." Masters were empowered "to sell, bequeath, let out for hire or give the service of their slaves to any person whomsoever, upon such condition and for such term of years as the said persons be adjudged to him for slaves, after the like sort and manner

as he may do of any other of his moveable goods or chattels."

Another clause of the Statute directs that "if any such slave or slaves so adjudged shall at any time after such adjudgment maime or wound their masters or mistresses in resisting their correction or otherwise, or when they be manumitted or set againe free, or, in the time of their service, shall conspire with any other, or by themselves, go about to murder and kill, or to maime their masters or mistresses, or those that were their master or mistress, or to burne their houses, barnes, or corne, so that *their intent come to an act tending to the effect*, that they should likewise be accounted felons, unless some person would take such offender into their service as a slave for ever." A clause even more repugnant to every just principle of legislation follows, that "although there be no man which shall demand such loiterer or loiterers, yet never the less justices of the peace shall be bound to inquire after such idle persons; and if it shall apear that any such have been vagrant for the space of three days, he shall be branded on the breast with a V, made with a hot iron, and shall be conveyed to the place of his birth, there to be nourished, and kept in chains, or otherwise, either at the common works in amending highways, or in the service of individuals after all such former condition, space of years, orders, punishments for running away, as are expressed of any common or private person to whom such loiterer is adjudged a slave. If vagabonds are carried to places, of which they have falsely declared themselves to be natives, then for such lie they shall be marked in the face with an S, and be slave to the inhabitants or corporation of the town, citie or village where he said he was born in, for ever." All persons were empowered to take idle children from vagabonds, and retain them as apprentices till the boys were 24, and the girls 20 years of age; and if they ran away before the end of their term their

masters might, upon recovering them, punish them, in chains, *or otherwise*, and use them as slaves till the time of their apprenticeship should have expired. A master was, likewise, authorized to "put a ring of iron about the neck, arm, or leg of his slave, for a more knowledge and surety of the keeping of him."

The latter part of the Statute provides a habitation (though perhaps not a compulsory maintenance) for the impotent Poor. The officers of towns and villages were directed to see them "bestowed and provided for of tenantries cottages and other convenient houses, to be lodged in, at the cost and charges of the said cities, towns, boroughs, and villages, there to be relieved, and cured by the devotion of good people"; and in order that no place might be burthened with persons flocking from other quarters, the magistrates were ordered to "enquire concerning the aged, impotent and lame in their district," and to remove such as were not born there and had not resided there for the last three years, "either on horseback, in cart, chariot or otherwise to the place where they were born, or had generally dwelt, there to be provided for and nourished of almes." Those, however, who were at all able to work were to be employed by the town or by individuals, "who would find them meat and drink for their work." Another clause which is scarcely intelligible provides that if any such apprentice, servant or slave, "have inheritance descended unto him or hir or any other waies by the lawes of this realme, ward or bondman, or *niefe of bloud*, by or from any of his ancestors to any person or persons," it shall be lawful for the person to whom he shall "appertaine to take and seize him and keep him. And the said wards, bondmen and niefes shall be discharged of the said slavery or other servitude or bondage above rehearsed." It appears from this that slavery by birth was not yet extinct in England, although Sir Thomas Smith ("Commonwealth of England," Ed. 1635 p. 249), who was Secretary to

Edward VI., says that he never knew any villeins in gross in England in his time, and that villeins regardant were so few that they were hardly worth mentioning.

An Act, so disgraceful to the Legislature, did not remain long on the Statute-book; by the 3rd and 4th, Edw. VI. c. 16, it was completely repealed, and the provisions of 22nd Hen. VIII. were revived. By the 5th and 6th of Edw. VI. c. 2, the chief officers in cities and towns, and the ministers and church wardens in country parishes were directed annually to appoint two, or more, able persons, to be collectors of the alms of the people for the relief of the Poor. The collectors, on the Sunday after their election, were to "gently ask and demand of every man and woman what they of their charity would be contented to give weekly toward the relief of the Poor," and to register the sum in a book: they were likewise entrusted with the distribution of the sum collected, and authorized to employ the Poor in such work as they were able to do. They were to account quarterly with the magistrates of cities, and the ministers and churchwardens of villages; and on quitting their office to deliver up the surplus money in their hands to be put in the common chest of the church, or in some other safe place. The penalty, however, for not accounting is so slight that the collectors for the Poor must have often peculated with impunity. The statute says, "if they refuse to account within eight days (after the expiration of the office), the bishop of the diocese, or ordinary, shall compel them, *by censures of the church*, to account before such persons as he shall appoint."

The means provided by the Statute for the enforcing and collecting of alms appear to have been equally weak and inefficacious It is said "that if any person, being able to further this charitable work, do obstinately and frowardly refuse to give toward the help of the Poor, or do wilfully discourage others from so charitable a deed, the parson, vicar, or curate, and churchwardens

of the parish where he dwelleth shall gently exhort him ; and if he will not be so persuaded, then, on certificate of such parson, vicar, or curate to the bishop of the diocese, the bishop shall send for him, to induce and persuade him by charitable ways and means, and so, according to his discretion, to take order for the reformation thereof."

By the 2nd and 3rd Ph. and M. c. 5, many of the statutes concerning beggars, vagabonds and idle persons were enforced. The time of appointing collectors and making collection of alms was altered from Whitsuntide to Christmas : probably not only because the former was a moveable feast, and the duration of office very irregular, but likewise, because at Christmas the Poor were more necessitous than they were at Whitsuntide ; while the Rich, it might naturally be expected, would, amidst the good cheer of the greatest festival of the year, be most disposed to be liberal in their contributions. A penalty of 40*s.* was also annexed to refusal of the office of collector. If a parish had more Poor than it was able to maintain the justices were empowered to grant a licence to poor folks to go abroad to beg and to receive alms out of their respective parishes, in their own or in an adjoining county. The magistrates in cities were also empowered to " induce, move, and persuade " the inhabitants of wealthy parishes to contribute towards the relief of the Poor in a more needy parish. All folks licensed to beg out of the limits of a city or town corporate were ordered to wear, both on the breast and on the back of their outermost garment, some notable badge or token, to be assigned to them by the head officer, with the assent of two justices.

The long reign of Elizabeth is filled with Acts for supplying the deficiencies, or correcting the errors, of former poor laws. The experience of a very few years had proved that the censures of the church were not sufficient to compel collectors for the Poor, on quitting their offices, to account for the money remaining in

their hands; and that the *gentle exhortation* of the ministers, and *charitable persuasions* of the bishops, were inadequate to raise the necessary sums for the relief of the Poor. It was therefore enacted by 5 Eliz. c. 3, that if collectors refused to account within eight days after request made to them for that purpose, the bishops of the diocese, or ordinary of the place, chancellors or their commissaries, together with a justice and one of the churchwardens, should have power to commit them to gaol until they settled their accounts and paid over the sums due from them; and the statute adds, that if the persons who had been exhorted by the bishop or his ordinary, shall "of his froward, wilful mind, obstinately refuse to give weekly to the relief of the Poor, according to his ability; the bishop, or his ordinary, shall bind him, by recognizance to appear at the Quarter Sessions: and at the said Sessions, the Justices shall charitably and gently persuade and move him, and if he will not be persuaded, they are authorized to tax him a weekly sum, and commit him to prison till it is paid: and by the same Act, the Justices are empowered, if a Parish has more Poor than it can relieve, to license persons (who are to wear badges on their breast or back) to beg within the county."

The Parliament of Elizabeth, however, which so frequently noticed the labouring Poor in their attempts to enforce the collection of alms, imitated the short-sighted policy of former Legislatures in placing the hiring and service of labourers under the supervision of the magistrates. It is, therefore, remarkable that the Act, 5th Eliz., which again controls the wages of industry, and properly notices the absurdity of former laws on this subject, gives the very reason, in its preamble, why the earnings of labour should never have been subjected to regulation. It admits that the old statutes, partly "through the imperfection and contrariety of them, and because they were not answerable to the time respecting the advancement of all things belonging

to servants and labourers, could not be carried into execution without the great grief and burden of the poor labourer and hired man. The Act immediately follows an Act for the relief of the Poor, and no doubt was intended as part of the same system. Its principal object seems to have been to check the great eagerness with which all ranks of people at this period rushed into commerce and manufacture; and to make the rating of wages (which must have been a great discouragement to agricultural labour, and in some degree have operated to lessen the proportion of arable land) less burdensome, by enabling the justices to vary the rate from year to year, according to the difference of seasons, and the price of provisions in their respective counties.

The Legislature, at length, in 1572, directed that a general assessment for the relief of the impotent Poor should be made in every city, village, and hamlet; and that if any surplus money remained after providing for their maintenance, it should be applied to setting rogues and vagabonds to work under the superintendence of overseers. To prevent any doubt respecting the term rogues and vagabonds, the Statute is very particular in specifying who shall be considered as such, and divides them into the following classes:—(1) All persons pretending to be proctors or procurators, i.e. persons employed by the clergy to collect the fruits of their benefices. (2) Idle persons using subtile, crafty, and unlawful games and plays. (3) All pretenders to palmistry, physiognomy and fortune-telling (4) All persons who can give no account of themselves, and also refuse to work for reasonable wages. (5) Fencers, bearwards, common players in interludes, minstrels not in the service of a baron of the realm, jugglers, pedlars, tinkers, and petty chapmen travelling without licence from two justices. (6) Counterfeiters of licences to beg. (7) Scholars begging without licence. (8) Shipmen pretending losses at sea. (9) Persons delivered

from gaol, who beg without licence. Begging, if the offender was above fourteen years of age was punished in the first instance, by grievous whipping, and burning through the gristle of the right ear, unless some creditable person would take the beggar into his service for a year; and if a vagabond, above eighteen years old, offended a second time, he was liable to suffer death as a felon, unless some creditable person would take him into service for two years; and if he offended a third time, he was to be adjudged a felon.

By the 18 Eliz. c. 3, the justices in every county are empowered to purchase or hire buildings to be converted into houses of correction, and to provide a competent stock of wool, hemp, flax, iron, or other stuff "to the intent," as the Act says, "that youth might be accustomed and brought up to labour, and then not like to grow to be idle rogues; and that such as be already grown up in idleness, and so rogues at this present, may not have any just excuse in saying that they cannot get service or work"; and that other poor and needy persons, being willing to labour, may be set to work, the keepers of the stock were authorized to supply poor persons with materials for work, and to pay them for the work they should perform; and the profits arising from the sale of the goods thus produced were directed to be laid out in keeping up the stock. Idlers were ordered to be sent to the house of correction, there to be kept at hard work.

In the year 1597 several Acts were passed relative to vagrancy and mendicity, and the various regulations of former Statutes, in some degree, moulded into an uniform system. Their severe penalties, however, were somewhat modified; instead of being burnt through the ears, a rogue, vagabond or sturdy beggar was ordered to be stripped naked from the middle upwards, and to be whipped until his body was bloody, and to be sent from parish to parish the next straight way to the place of his birth, and if that was not known, "to

the parish where he dwelt last, one whole year."

It will perhaps gratify the reader to see the form of a testimonial which was given to a vagrant after whipping. The following one is copied *verbatim* from a M.S. among the miscellaneous papers in the British Museum :—

"How valyant beggers ough to
be punyisshed accordinge to Kinge's Statute.

"Wm. Payne whipped for a vagraunt strong begger at Chester in the county of the citty of Chester according to the law the xiii day of February xxix yere of the reigne of moast dred soveigne Lord H. th' eight was assigned to passe forth wh and dyrectly from thens to Chippen Warren in the countie of Northampton where he saith he was borne and he is lymittyd to be there wtin xvi dayez then next ensuying at his pell. I witnez wherof the seale of the offyc of the mairaltie of the citie aforseid and place where he was ponyshed herunto is sett." Harleian. MSS. 2057.

Incorrigible offenders might be banished by the justices at quarter sessions to such places without the Realm as the Privy Council should assign, or condemned to the galley for life ; and persons returning from banishment were to be adjudged felons. By the same Statute four overseers were directed to be chosen in each parish, for setting poor children, and others in want of employment, to work ; and for raising weekly, or otherwise, a stock of materials for that purpose. Justices were empowered to levy the rate by distress, and for the relief of the impotent Poor, the churchwardens and overseers were authorized, with the permission of lords of the manors, to build convenient houses on the waste, at the general charge of the parish ; and to place inmates, or more families than one, in each cottage. Parents of old, blind, lame and other poor persons, were bound to relieve their children or sick men, as should be directed at the General Quarter Sessions, on penalty of 20*s.* for every month they failed so to do, and begging, unless

for victuals in the parish (soldiers and sailors with proper testimonials being excepted) was entirely prohibited. By 35 Eliz. c. 4 provision was made for the relief of soldiers and mariners, the preamble stating "That it is agreeable with Christian charity, policy, and the honour of our nation, that such as have adventured their lives, and lost their limbs in the service of the State, should be relieved and rewarded to the end that they may reap the fruits of their good deservings, and others may be encouraged to perform the like endeavours." No parish was to be rated above 6*d.* nor under 1*d.* weekly; and the sum total in any county, where there were above 50 parishes, was not to exceed the rate of 2*d.* each parish. These sums were increased to 8*d.*, 2*d.* and 4*d.* respectively, by 39 Eliz. c. 21. Increasing inconveniences at length produced the memorable 43rd of Eliz., which concentres in one point the accumulated experiences of a long reign, and has continued near two centuries to be the ground work of every regulation respecting the Poor. By comparing this Statute with 39 Eliz. c. 3, it will appear that its most material provisions were not, as many persons erroneously suppose, originally framed in 1601; on the contrary the principal clauses of the former Act, respecting the appointment of overseers, levying the rate, setting the able to work, providing relief for the impotent, and binding out children apprentices, were copied almost verbatim; and the following seem to be the principal alterations introduced by the 43rd of Elizabeth:

1.—Instead of sending those who refused to work to the House of Correction, which seems the proper place, justices were empowered to commit them to the common gaol. The Act, however, does not specify how they shall be employed.

2.—In addition to the clause respecting the erection of cottages on the waste it is directed that such buildings shall not, at any time after, be used for any other habitation, but only for the impotent Poor, who shall

be placed there from time to time by the churchwardens and overseers.

3.—Grandfathers and grandmothers, as well as parents and children, if not of sufficient ability, are reciprocally called upon to maintain each other.

4.—The clauses relative to the prohibition of begging and vagrancy are entirely omitted.

5.—Besides the ordinary rate for relieving and setting the Poor to work, a sum of money was directed to be raised from every parish by a weekly rate, not exceeding sixpence, or under twopence, for the relief of the poor prisoners in the King's Bench and Marshalsea, and also such hospitals and alms houses as shall be in each county; so as that there be sent out of every county, yearly, not less than 20*s.* to each of the above gaols: the surplus money is to be distributed, at the discretion of the justices, for the relief of the poor hospitals of the county, and of those who shall sustain losses by fire, water or other casualties; and to such other purposes, for the relief of the Poor as the major part of the justices at the quarter sessions shall think convenient.

6.—Various penalties, from 20*s.* to £5, are annexed to the non-performance of the duties imposed on the justices, churchwardens, and overseers; and the sums, which may there accrue, are ordered to be applied in aid of the fund appropriated for relieving and employing the Poor.

7.—An appeal to quarter sessions is given to persons who find themselves aggrieved by any cess, tax, or other act done by churchwardens or other persons, or by the justices of the peace under colour of this Act.

8.—Officers sued for anything done in execution of this Act, are empowered to plead the general issue; and in case they recover, they are allowed treble costs. From the last clause in the Statute, it appears that it was only intended to be experimental; it was, how-

ever, continued by subsequent statutes, and by the 16 Car. I. c. 4 made perpetual.

It is impossible to form any accurate estimate of the number of persons who received or paid parochial contributions immediately after the Act was passed, but it is probable that the proportion of the Poor to the other classes of the nation was smaller at the end of the sixteenth century than at the end of the eighteenth. About 1590 the population of London was estimated at about 160,000.[1] In 1595 (a year of great scarcity) a survey made by the Lord Mayor showed that there were 4,132 poor householders within his jurisdiction. It is not recorded whether this includes all the members of each family, nor how many Poor who were not householders were contained in London, but it appears that the increase in the Metropolis has not kept pace with the increase of its Poor. Many country towns at the end of the eighteenth century contained a proportion of Poor far exceeding anything noticed in the reigns of Elizabeth or James. In the parish of Burwash in Sussex one-fourth of the inhabitants was chargeable and one-third of the rental devoted to their maintenance. In Caldewgate quarter of Carlisle one-third of the population was in receipt of relief in 1795, and in Shrewsbury, with a population of about 20,000, between 5,000 and 6,000, exclusive of the regular Poor, received charity.

Among the various funds appropriated to the relief of the Poor, previous to the establishment of a compulsory maintenance by the 43rd of Elizabeth, a branch of supply should be mentioned, which, although inconsiderable in its produce, even amidst the much-complained-of profligacy of modern times, has been thought worthy of notice by every Legislature during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, namely, the pecuniary forfeitures, which for many statutable offences, and particularly for those relative to profaneness or

[1] See Anderson's "History of Commerce," ii. 176.

immorality, have been applied in aid of the Poor Rate As early as 1558, churchwardens were empowered to levy twelve pence upon every parishioner who omitted going to church on Sunday. In 1570 a moiety of the forfeitures for detaining goods belonging to a bankrupt's estate, was directed to be distributed by the Commissioners to the Poor within the hospitals in the city or town where the bankrupt happened to be, and in the same Parliament half the penalty for not wearing a woollen cap on Sunday was appropriated to the same purpose. In 1581 the fines imposed for saying mass, for neglecting to attend Divine service, and for other acts against the Established Church, were given one-third to the informer, one-third to the Queen for her own use, and one-third to her for the use of the Poor of the parish in which the offence was committed, and in 1587 the Lord Treasurer, Chancellor and Chief Baron of the Exchequer, were authorized to dispose of a third part of the forfeitures incurred for not coming to Divine service towards the "relief and maintenance as well of the Poor, and of the Houses of Correction as of impotent and maimed soldiers."

Other sources of penal contribution were gradually opened, and the laws for preserving of game and fish, preventing tippling, swearing, disorderly conduct on the Lord's Day, and many other offences were even in the reigns of Elizabeth and James enforced by fines, of which a moiety was usually allotted to the Poor of the parish where the offence was committed (e.g. 23 Eliz. c. 10; 2 Jac. c. 9 and 27; 3 Jac. c. 12; 4 Jac. c. 4 and 5; 7 Jac. c. 11; 21 Jac. c. 20; 3 Car. c. 1). No information is to be met with relative to the annual amount of the penalties applied to this purpose at any period of our history. The lovers of good order may, however, be assured that the Poor Rate has never derived much aid from the punishment of immorality, notwithstanding the innumerable Statutes passed of late years, some of which appropriated a part

and others the whole of a pecuniary forfeiture towards the relief of the Poor. Parliament seems to have been aware that the produce was not worth attending to, since among the questions, to which the overseers of the Poor were obliged to make returns upon oath in the years 1776 and 1781, no query was inserted in order to ascertain the receipts arising from penal forfeitures.

During the reign of James I. a few additions were made to the laws respecting vagrancy and mendicity. The Act of Elizabeth for the punishment of rogues and vagabonds was continued and explained, and its provisions enforced by additional severities. A clause in 2 Jac. c. 7 (continued by 3 Car. c. 4 and 16 Car. c. 4) says that the statute of Elizabeth respecting rogues who return to the kingdom after banishment was somewhat defective "for that the said rogues having no mark upon them to be known by, may return or retire themselves into some other part of this realm where they are not known and so escape the punishment which the said Statute did intend to inflict upon them." It was therefore enacted that rogues, adjudged incorrigible and dangerous, should be "branded on the left shoulder with a hot iron of the breadth of a shilling, having a Roman R upon it, and placed to labour; and if after such punishment they were found begging and wandering, they were to be adjudged felons, and to suffer death without benefit of clergy." The harsh penalties of this Act were continued in force till the 12 Anne c. 23, when they were somewhat modified, and a just distinction made between idle, disorderly persons, and rogues and vagabonds. The provisions of even modern Statutes on this branch of Penal Law appear unnecessarily severe. By the Vagrant Act 17 Geo. II. c. 5, § 3, 4, 9, a person wandering abroad and begging is deemed a rogue and vagabond; and justices at quarter sessions are empowered to inflict a public whipping, and six months imprisonment for the first offence, and for the second,

two years imprisonment; and during such imprisonment, whipping in such manner and at such times and places within their jurisdiction, as, according to the nature of such person's offence, they, in their discretion, shall think fit. A woman, wandering and begging, if delivered of a child in a parish to which she does not belong, is made liable to public whipping, and six months imprisonment. It is not unreasonable to suppose that the great disproportion between the offence and the punishment is the principal reason why this Statute is so seldom carried into execution.

The first Parliament of James followed the example of its predecessors in another respect. By 2 Jac. c. 6, the Act of 5 Eliz. was explained and extended to "labourers, weavers, spinsters and workmen or workwomen soever, either working by the day, week, month or year, or taking at any person's hand whatsoever, to be done in great or otherwise." The Act of Elizabeth had empowered the justices to rate the wages of artificers, handicraftsmen, husbandmen, and *other labourers, whose wages had in times past been rated*, but the preamble to 2 Jac. c. 6 states that "the said Act had not, according to the true meaning thereof been duly put in execution, whereby the rate of wages . . . has not been proportioned according to the plenty, scarcity, necessity, and respect of the time," and that the said law "having been found beneficial to the commonwealth," the powers of rating were to be extended. It is not one of the least objections to this Statute that by extending the authority of justices to the rating of *any workmen or workwomen whatsoever*, it must frequently have afforded master manufacturers ample means of domineering over their workmen.

The Legislature seems to have been aware that this evil would occur in one branch of business at least, for it was provided by the last clause of this Act that "no clothier being a Justice of the Peace . . . should be any rater of any wages for any weaver, tucker, spinster,

or other artizan that depended upon the making of cloth." The Act also directed the rates to be "proclaimed, sealed, engrossed and preserved among the records of the city or county in which they were appointed," instead of being returned into Chancery.

The 43 Eliz., which Lord Coke says (2 Inst. 733) was but a probationer was continued by several Statutes and received some inconsiderable additions, relating principally to the binding of poor children apprentices. Of the amount of the rate levied under this Act, at this period, history is silent. The situation of the Poor even after the passing of the 43 Eliz., is represented by some authors as exceedingly deplorable; and the assessments for their relief are said to have been so low that many perished for want, while the author of a pamphlet, published in 1698, entitled "Bread for the Poor," says that "though parishes were enabled by the 43 Eliz. to make rates, and the owners of estates obliged to the payment, yet in many places, no such rates were made in 20, 30 or 40 years after; and when they were first made, and, in many years after, the money, so risen, was inconsiderable to the present charge."

It appears also from the preamble to 7 Jac. c. 4 that Houses of Correction had not been built according to the intention of the Legislature; and the provisions of former Statutes were enforced by a penalty of five pounds, which was imposed on every justice within every county where a House of Correction was not built or provided. The salaries of the masters and governors were directed to be paid by the treasurer of the Poor; and these alone must have added heavily to the county charges.

That the Poor Laws, even as early as the reign of James I., were suspected to operate as a premium upon idleness, seems manifest from a Statute passed in 1609 (7 Jac. c. 4.) which declares "that many wilful people, finding that they, having children, have some hope to

have relief from the parish wherein they dwell, and being able to labour, and thereby to relieve themselves and their families, do nevertheless run away out of their parishes, and leave their families upon the parish," it was therefore enacted that all such persons, running away, should be deemed incorrigible rogues; and that, if any man or woman, able to work, should *threaten* to run away, they should be sent to the House of Correction, and treated as wandering rogues.

The first publication immediately concerning the Poor in King James's reign was published in 1622, and is entitled, "Greevous Grones for the Poor, done by a well-wisher, who wisheth that the Poore of England might be so provided for, as none should neede to go a beggin within this realme," by M. S. London. The author complains that the Statutes respecting the Poor, though excellent, were not enforced, and adds that the number of the Poor daily increases, and there has been no collection for them, "no not these seven yeares," in many parishes of this land, especiallie in countrie townes; but many parishes turn their Poor adrift to beg, and steal, so that the country is "pittifully pestered with them." He also says that no one will employ the maimed soldiers, who have to "seeke their meate uppon meares (as the proverbe goeth) with begging and stealing, untill the law bring them to the fearful end of hanging."

In 1646 was published a small quarto tract of six pages, entitled "Stanleye's Remedy: or the Way how to reform wandering Beggars, Thieves, Highway-Robbers and Pickpockets." The author was a member of an Inn of Court, who "by lewd company became a highway robber in Queen Elizabeth's reign." He was, however, pardoned and reformed his ways. His "remedy" is merely the building of houses of correction or workhouses in every county, both in cities and market towns, but the tract is interesting from the light it throws on the condition of the Poor at the time He states that it had been estimated that there were 80,000

idle vagrants in the land, and that "the general rule of all England is to whip and punish the wandering beggars, and to brand them according to the forme of the new Statute, and so mark them with such a note of infamie as they may be assured no man will set the men to work." He adds: "The right end and intent of punishing of rogues is but the destruction of vices, and saving of men; but here is no care taken to releeve them. The Statute commands that vagrants should repaire to the places where they were borne, or last dwelled: there are thousands of these people that their place of birth is utterly unknowne, and they never had any abiding place in their lives or ever retained in service; but were and are vagrants by descent. . . . I have heard the rogues and beggars curse the magistrates unto their faces, for providing such a law to whip and brand them, and not provide houses of labour for them."

The next publication is a pamphlet, dated 1650, and entitled "A cleare and evident way for enriching the Nations of England and Ireland and for setting very great numbers of Poore to work," by I.D. Among other projects the building of busses is recommended for the development of the herring fishery, and the prohibition of the practice of exporting undressed cloth. It is probable that the repeated complaints and convincing statements of this and other writers induced Parliament in the following year (1651) to pass the celebrated Navigation Act, prohibiting the importation, exportation, and even coastwise traffic in fish, except what was caught by our own fishermen.

In 1662, the important Statute, which is the foundation of the Law of Settlements, was enacted, not only for the purpose of determining who should be considered the Poor of each parish, but to prevent labourers, in general, before they became actually chargeable, from wandering from their usual place of abode; lest particular parishes, which from their situation, their privi-

leges, or other circumstances, held out inviting prospects to newcomers, should in the end be overburdened with Poor. Previous to the passing of this Act, the industrious Poor were at liberty to seek employment wherever it was to be had ; none were obliged to reside in the place of their settlement but such as were unable or unwilling to work, and those places of settlement were only those where they were born or had made their abode (if they were impotent Poor) for three years, or, if vagabonds, one year only. But by the Settlement Act (13 and 14 Car. II. c. 12) it was enacted that the residence in a parish, necessary in order to procure a settlement, should be reduced to forty days ; and that, within that time, it should be lawful for any two justices, upon complaint made by the churchwardens and overseers of the Poor, to remove any newcomer to the parish where he was last legally settled, either as a native, house-holder, sojourner, apprentice or servant, for the space of 40 days at the least, unless he either rented a tenement of ten pounds a year, or could give such security for the discharge of the parish where he was living, as the two justices should deem sufficient. This single clause of a short Act of Parliament has ocasioned more doubts and difficulties in Westminster Hall, and has (perhaps) been more profitable to the profession of the Law than any other point in English jurisprudence. This law applied to Englishmen only, and foreigners, among whom for this purpose Scotchmen and Irishmen were included, could not be so removed, since if they fell sick or from any other cause became incapable of earning a livelihood no person was bound by law to relieve them. As they could thus gain a settlement for their children (if born in the country) their servants and apprentices, they were, in one respect, placed in a better position than an English subject. This glaring defect in our laws was not remedied till 35 Geo. III. c. 101.

As the Act of 1662 inevitably led to frauds, by the Poor and by the parish officers, it was enacted by 1

Jac. II. c. 17, that the forty days' continuance of any newcomer should be accounted only from the time of his delivering notice, in writing, of the place of his abode, and the number of his family (when he had any) to one of the churchwardens or overseers of the parish to which he should remove; and in order to prevent collusion by parish officers it was further enacted by 3 W. and M. c. 11, § 3, that the forty days' continuance in a parish should be accounted only from the publication of such notice, in church, immediately after divine service on the Sunday, after it was delivered to the overseer. There were other ways, however, in which a settlement might be gained without the publication of a notice; i.e. (a) by being charged to the public taxes and paying them; (b) by executing an annual office in the parish and serving in it a year; (c) by serving an apprenticeship in the parish; (d) by being lawfully hired into any parish for a year (3 W. and M. c. 11, §§ 6, 7, 8), and continuing in the same service a twelvemonth (8 and 9 W. III. c. 30, § 4).[1] Again, bastards acquire a settlement by birth; as do legitimate children when the father's last legal settlement is not known (when it is known it is also the settlement of the child), though after seven years and forty days from birth a child may acquire a settlement of its own. Women gain a settlement by marriage, and by a legal decision persons who possess an estate of their own, however inconsiderable, could not be removed; till by 9 Geo. I. c. 7, it was enacted that no person should acquire a settlement by the purchase of an estate of less than £30 for a longer time than he should reside therein. One of the results of the Settlement Act was to promote bastardy, since parish officers often attempted to remove young men, about to marry, to their last place of settlement on the ground that their family might become chargeable. This was prevented by the 35 Geo. III. c. 101, which

[1] For Adam Smith's comments on these regulations see "Wealth of Nations," 5th ed., I, 214.

prohibited removal until the person was actually chargeable. Another example of the baneful effect of the unamended law is quoted : owing to the increased population of a village in the West Riding a shoe-maker was induced to remove thither from another part of England. The only shoemaker who had been there before, fearing his competition, urged that the newcomer might become chargeable, and his removal was determined on. Fortunately the rector interfered and silenced the clamour by threatening to let a small tenement of ten pounds a year to the newcomer, who in a few years established himself, and though there were five shoemakers in the parish, earned a comfortable maintenance for himself and a large family.

The inconveniences of the Law of Settlement were soon recognised, and it was laid down by 8 and 9 W. c. 30 that if any person coming to reside in a parish should deliver to the churchwardens or overseers a certificate from the similar officers of his parish of settlement, allowed and subscribed by two justices, he should not be liable to removal till actually chargeable, and that in that case the parish giving the certificate should pay the expenses of his maintenance and removal. But by an Act of the following years (9 and 10 W. III. c. 11) certificated persons cannot gain a settlement except by renting a tenement of £10 a year, or executing some annual office in the parish, and by 12 Ann. c. 18 § 2, an apprentice or servant of a certificated person cannot gain a settlement by such apprenticeship or service.

Between the Restoration and the Revolution many projects were suggested for the better execution and improvement of the Poor Laws. Sir Josiah Child, in his "New Discourse of Trade," written before 1669, has a long chapter "concerning the Relief and Employment of the Poor." He ascribes the sad and wretched condition of the Poor (of which, he seems to think, there can be no doubt) to a radical error of the laws

in leaving it to every parish to maintain their own Poor only, the consequence of which is "the shifting off, sending, or whipping back, the poor wanderers to the place of their birth or last abode. A poor idle person (he says) that will not work, or that nobody will employ in the country, comes up to London; such a person may beg up and down the streets seven years, it may be seven and twenty, before anyone asks why she doth so. And if at length she hath the ill-hap to meet with a more vigilant beadle than one in twenty are, all he does is but to lead her the length of five or six houses into another parish, and then concludes, as his masters the parishioners do, that he hath done the part of a most diligent officer. But suppose he should carry this poor wretch to a justice of the peace, and he should order the delinquent to be whipt and sent from parish to parish, to the place of her birth, or last abode, which not one justice of twenty (through pity or other cause) will do, even this is a great charge upon the country, and no sooner doth she arrive at the place assigned, but, for shame and idleness, she presently deserts it, and wanders directly back, or some other way, hoping for better fortune; whilst the parish to which she is sent, knowing her a lazy, or perhaps a worse qualifyd person, is as willing to be rid of her as she is to be gone thence." The laws against inmates and empowering parishioners to take security before they suffer any poor person to inhabit amongst them, are altogether improper in cities and great towns of trades, and contrary to the practice of other cities, and trading towns abroad. "The riches of a city, as of a nation, consisting in the multitude of inhabitants, *you must allow inmates or have a city of cottages.* And if a right course be taken for the sustentation of the Poor, and setting them on work, you need invent no stratagems to keep them out, but rather to bring them in. For the resort of Poor to a city or nation well managed is in effect the conflux of riches to that city or nation,

and therefore the subtle Dutch receive and relieve, or employ, all that come to them, not enquiring what nation, much less what parish they are of."

His proposals contemplated one province for the relief of the Poor in London, Westminster, Southwark, and "all other places included within the bills of mortality," under the management of a body with the title of "The Fathers of the Poor," with power among other things "to send such Poor beyond the seas, as they shall think fit, into his Majesty's plantations, taking security for their comfortable maintenance during their service, and for their freedom afterwards," a suggestion not at all calculated for a free country: Poor's rates of ten millions a year would be less intolerable than seventy municipal despots, for such I conceive his seventy Fathers of the Poor would have been, when vested with an authority to transport a man to the colonies (whose only crime was idleness or poverty) for an unlimited time, without the formality of a trial or the intervention of a jury.

Soon after, in 1673, a pamphlet entitled "The Grand Concern of England Explained" (Harleian Miscellany viii. 52) gives the earliest estimate of the amount of the Poor's Rate, viz. £840,000 a year. This, the author says, "is employed only to maintain idle persons; doth great hurt rather than good; makes a world of poor more than otherwise there would be; prevents industry and laboriousness; men and women growing so idle and proud that they will not work, but lie upon the parish, wherein they dwell, for maintenance; applying themselves to nothing but begging or pilfering, and breeding up their children accordingly; never putting them upon anything that may render them useful in their generation, or beneficial either to themselves or the Kingdom." His remedy was the setting the Poor to work in spinning, carding, combing, knitting, making laces and so forth.

We come next to Andrew Yarranton's "England's

Improvement by Sea and Land," published in 1677, and containing various projects relative to trade and manufacture for the employment of the able Poor in England, chiefly the development of the linen and iron trade. He was an apprentice to a linen draper, "and so," he says, "I knew something of linen; and finding the Poor unemployed, I, with my wife, did promote the making of much fine linen with good success," but though he makes many flattering calculations of the benefits to be derived from the linen and iron trades, like many other writers on the same subject, he seems to have fallen into the gross mistake that all the Poor were able to work.

In the same year a writer who signs himself R.H. wrote a pamphlet (Harleian Misc, v. 464) with a very long title, advocating the extension of the linen trade —a favourite project for employing the Poor at this period. He wrote several other pamphlets about this period containing similar proposals, but they are very little worth attending to, though their titles are long and high sounding. He estimated the sum collected annually by the Poor Rate as upwards of £700,000.

In 1678, however, a scheme of a more serious kind was described by Mr. Thomas Firmin in a letter to a friend (Archbishop Tillotson) entitled "Proposals for the employing of the Poor, especially in and about London." It appears to have attracted considerable notice, for in 1681 it was republished with many additions, and is an account of an establishment which he had set on foot for providing work for the Poor in the parish of Aldersgate. He makes many judicious observations extremely applicable to similar institutions. In the first place he says that "the only way to provide for our Poor and to bring them to labour, is to provide such work for them as they may do in their own homes, which, though never so mean and homely, is more desired than any other place; and the way which several persons have proposed, of bringing them to a

public workhouse, will never effect the end intended; for suppose a woman hath a sick husband or child, or some infirmity upon herself, in all such cases she may do something at home, but cannot leave her own house. And supposing that none of these should happen, which is yet very frequent, not one person of twenty will endure the thoughts of working at a public workhouse." In the second place, he is aware that it would be difficult to find sufficient capital and stock of material to employ all the Poor who might apply for work, and further to find a market for "all the yarn these people shall spin. If you weave it into cloth, the commodity is brought over so cheap that you will never be able to sell without much loss." To which he replies: "That it is to be hoped, in time, as our people grow more skilful and industrious, we shall be able to sell as cheap as our neighbours; especially if we once shall be provided with flax and hemp of our own growth; and in the meantime it is better to lose something in a way that will make our poor people better and skilful, than to suffer them to live in idleness, to their utter ruin and a greater damage to the Kingdom." Mr. Firmin's Workhouse in Aldersgate did not continue long in a thriving condition, and his account of its success four years after its erection is discouraging. He reckoned that out of £4,000 laid out in the last year there was a loss of £200, in spite of the "kindness of several persons that took off some of the commodities I made at the price they cost me, and in particular of the East India and Guinea Company, who gave me encouragement to make their allabas cloths and coarse canvas for their pepper bags, which in former times they used to have from other countries. It is most certain that unless a higher impost be laid upon foreign linen, it will not be possible for us, at present, to make it so cheap as it is brought over; for our poor people will neither work so hard nor live so cheap as generally the Poor of other places do."

In 1683 was published a short treatise entitled "A Discourse touching Provision for the Poor," which is said to have been written by Sir Matthew Hale, and, if by that great man, probably about the year 1659, when he was in retirement. He observes that the Act of Elizabeth gives power to raise stocks by rating the parishioners, and setting the Poor to work, but though rates are made for the relief of the impotent Poor, it is rare to see any provision of a stock to enable the able Poor to work. The reasons are that few people are willing to raise sufficient to procure the necessary stock, but prefer to make yearly payments, "tho' it exhaust them in time and make the Poor nothing the better at the year's end," and because the churchwardens and overseers are "unwilling to charge themselves, or displease their neighbours in charging more than they needs must towards the Poor," and the justices have no power to compel them. The Act, moreover, requires every parish apart to make this provision, and "there is no power for hiring or erecting a common house, or place for their common workhouse." He suggests therefore, a union of parishes where necessary, and that compulsory powers should be given to the justices to enforce the Act. The author entertained a very sanguine idea of the benefits that would arise from his plan, but admits that it is not to be expected that the cloth would be sold as soon as made, and that private manufacturers, who endeavour for their own interest to make the most of their trade, often meet with great losses, which impair their stocks; and that a public concern which cannot be expected to be managed with such prudence, must often be in the same condition; while the setting up of a public trade will only make workmen more independent, and less solicitous of employment with private traders, which will tend to the decay of trade.

Richard Dunning, in his "Plain and Easy Method showing how the office of Overseer of the Poor may

be managed, whereby it may be £9000 per annum advantage to the County of Devon, without abating the weekly relief of any Poor," published in 1685, was of opinion that the Statutes in force, if duly executed, were sufficient to reduce the number of the Poor. He says that the Act has unjustly been accused of making multitudes idle and careless, " and that allowing them a refuge for relief from their parishes, hath caused them the less to provide for themselves. Indeed, by that law, the parish is (as they commonly say) *bound to find them;* but that in a far other and larger sense than they mean, viz. *work* for those that *will* labour, *punishment* for those that *will* not, and *bread* for those that *cannot.*" His remedy is the strict enforcement of the two first parts of the law. His calculation of the sum which he will save to the county seems founded upon very slender data, and the methods by which he proposes to enforce his regulations are liable to many objections. The chief information which his work contains is that a Devonshire day-labourer, by threshing and other agricultural work, could earn 5*d.* a day all the year round, and his diet, which he estimates at 5*d.* a day more. Women, he thinks, could earn their diet, worth 18*d.* a week, and 6*d* a week more

Dr. Davenant, in his " Essay upon Ways and Means," published in 1695, printed among other tables an estimate of the proportion of Poor's Rate borne by each county in England about the year 1685. It was collected with great labour and expense by Mr. Arthur Moore, " a very knowing person." and the sum amounted to £631,609, which with the sum of £33,753 computed for Wales according to the proportion which the principality bore to the rest of the Kingdom in taxes, makes £665,362 for the whole country, which Dr. Davenant in another essay declares had risen considerably before 1695 in consequence of the great decay in the foreign trade, and home manufacture. He was aware of the abuses which existed in parochial expenditure, and

says, "As this money is managed in most places, instead of relieving such as are poor and impotent (which the laws design) it seems only to nourish and continue vice and sloth in the nation. The real and true objects of charity would cost the nation but little to maintain, and it is to be doubted they have the least share in the public reliefs." In his "Essay upon the probable means of making a people gainers in the balance of trade" (published 1697), he quotes Gregory King's famous computation, in which he estimates the number of vagrants (gypsies, thieves, beggars, etc.) as 30,000, the labouring people and out servants at 1,275,000, and the cottagers and paupers at 1,300,000, with a yearly income per family of £15 and £6 10*s.* respectively for each of the two latter classes. His remedy for the abuses which prevailed was to form a public corporation by the name of the Governor and Company, for maintaining and employing the Poor of this Kingdom, to last for 21 years, and with a capital of £300,000 to be applied in setting the Poor to work. The subscribers were to receive for the 21 years an average of the rate levied yearly between 1690 and 1697, together with all donations given to any parish, all forfeitures which the Law gives to the use of the Poor, and all other sums usually collected for that purpose. Work or maintenance was to be provided for all poor persons claiming it, but the laws to be put severely in execution against those who shall ask any public alms. It was suggested also that the numerous laws in force, should be codified and administered equally in all places. The scheme, however, was not adopted.

The "Proposals humbly offered by John Apletre, Esq., for the better maintenance of the Poor of the County of Worcester," was probably published about 1696, the year in which he was Sheriff of Worcester. His idea was to establish a House of Industry in an incorporated district, and to make a levy on the parishes not exceeding 12*d.* in the pound, over and above what

is paid to the relief of the Poor, for the purpose of building a Workhouse and material to be worked up by the inmates His scheme does not differ very materially from some of those already mentioned, except in the importance he attaches to the enclosure of waste land, and in the power which he proposes should be vested in the Master of the Workhouse to whip idle and incorrigible inmates, who may be sent there on a warrant from a number of justices not specified. In the same year, 1696, the consideration of the proper method for employing the Poor was referred to the Commissioners of the Board of Trade, and in the following year a report, signed by John Locke, the famous philosopher, was duly presented. It contains many observations worthy of consideration, and the suggestions he made appears to have formed the basis of part of the plan under consideration for enforcing and amending the Poor Laws, at the present time. He states that the multiplying of the Poor, and the increase of the tax for their maintenance, is so general an observation and complaint, that it cannot be doubted of, but the evil has proceeded neither from scarcity of provisions nor from the want of employment, " since God has blessed these times with plenty." The growth of the Poor, therefore, " can be nothing else but the relaxation of discipline and the corruption of manners," and he thinks that upon a very moderate computation one half of those, who receive relief from the parishes, are able to get their livelihood. With respect to vagabonds, he recommends enforcing the laws in being, and enacting several new regulations for the suppression of vagrancy ; and in order to take away all pretence of being idle for want of work, it is proposed that if anyone complains of wanting work and is willing to work at a lower rate than is usually given in his parish, which rate is to be regulated by the guardian, and no one in the parish should accept such person at the rate proposed, then a list of the inhabitants shall be

made out, and each person in his turn be obliged to employ the poor man, or to pay him the wages appointed by the guardian. As, however, the greater part of the Poor are neither unable nor unwilling to work, but through want of employment or unskilfulness "do little that turns to any public account," he proposes that working schools be set up in each parish. It is likewise proposed to distribute bread, and in cold weather the addition of water gruel, which may be prepared by the fire in the schoolroom, rather to the children whilst at school than to allow a proportionate allowance to their parents for that purpose, for an allowance given once a week, or once a month, to the father, is not seldom spent at the ale-house, whilst the children are left to perish at home unless the charity of neighbours relieves them. His scheme also contemplated binding all the lads at the school as apprentices to some form of industry.

The altercations between the King and Parliament, which were carried on with great acrimony during the latter part of his reign, prevented due attention being given to this proposal, though the subject was referred to in the King's Speech in 1698, and again in 1699, and 1700. In 1705 a Bill framed by Locke, in conformity with the report, was introduced into the House of Commons, but did not pass into Law.

A pamphlet published at Exeter in 1698, and signed R.D., appears from internal evidence to have been written by Richard Dunning.[1] He asserted that the charge of maintaining the Poor had risen from 40*s.* to £40 a year, and that the cost to the county of Devon was no less than £38,991 13*s.* 5*d.*, which was £30,000 a year more than was expended annually 50 or 60 years before, though wages were higher, work more plentiful, and provisions cheaper than in the earlier period. The cost to the whole Kingdom is therefore not less than £819,000 per annum. He ascribes the

[1] For former publication see pp. 35-36.

cause of the great increase in the Poor Rate to four causes: 1, Profuseness of diet, "such as are maintained by parish pay seldom drink any other than the strongest ale-house beer, which, at the rate they buy it, costs 50*s.* or £3 a hogshead; that they seldom eat any bread save what is made of the finest wheat flour sold by common bakers." This he proposes to remedy by providing the Poor with an allowance in kind instead of money by "badging" them, and "that their daily portion of food be limited as to quantity, quality, weight, and measure, according to their ages, sexes, and other circumstances." 2, Idleness. "Persons, once receiving parish pay, presently become idle, alleging that the parish is bound to maintain them, and that in case they should work it would only favour a parish, from whom, they say, they shall have no thanks." The remedy suggested is to provide all that can contribute to their own maintenance with suitable work, as indicated in his publication of 1686. 3, Excessive relief. The allowance commonly given to persons maintained by the parish being three times as much as an honest labourer, who with his wife maintains three children, can afford himself. He declares it is not strange for labourers to have four or five children which they maintain by their labour, and common for them to have three. Admitting that the wife can support one child, he calculates the cost for himself and the other two at 2*s.* 5*d.* a week, while wages are 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* a week. From this it appears that at the end of the seventeenth century a labourer's income in Devonshire was about £6 10*s.* a year, an amount which by the end of the eighteenth century had risen by at least three times. It is probable this estimate is not much below the actual truth, though I admit that as compared with the contemporary earnings of persons in the same class, as stated by other writers, it appears to be extremely low. 4, The separate housing of the Poor. "Several of them have ordinarily one

house apiece entirely to themselves, which would conveniently serve three or four of them; and the same fire, candle light and attendance that now serves but one, might serve three or four; and in many particulars they might assist, help, and comfort one another; only their unwillingness to have their idleness, filching, profuseness in diet discovered makes them extremely adverse against such cohabiting."

In his "Essay towards regulating the Trade, and employing the Poor in this Kingdom" (published about 1700), Mr. Cary seems to agree with Mr. Dunning in ascribing the increase of the Poor's Rates to idleness, and chiefly to the increase of ale-houses, which are "encouraged to promote the income of excise, on whom there must be no restraint, lest the King's revenue should be lessened." His remedy was the familiar proposal for the erection of Workhouses, and he passes high encomiums on an Act passed in the 7th and 8th William III. by which the different parishes in the city of Bristol were incorporated, and the management of all parochial concerns within the city vested in a corporation. On the inequality of the Poor's Rates in different parishes of the same city, he makes the following just observations: "In cities and great towns, where the greatest number of Poor usually residing together in the suburbs and out-parishes are very serviceable by their labours to the Rich in carrying on their trades; yet when age, sickness or a numerous family make them desire relief, their chief dependencies must be on people but one step above their own conditions; by which means these out-parishes are more burthened in their payments than the in-parishes are, though much richer, no man caring to come to a certain charge, and this is attended with another ill consequence, the want of better inhabitants making way for those disorders which easily grow among the Poor; whereas if cities and towns were made but one Poor's Rate, or equally divided into more, these inconveniences

would be removed, and the Poor maintained by a more equal contribution." Although, however, he proposed that one or more hundreds should be united for the purpose of building Hospitals, Workhouses, and Houses of Correction, he did not suggest a uniform rate but thought that each parish should continue to pay what it had paid before "there not being the same parity of reason for that way of raising money in the hundreds, as there is in cities and towns." He advocated that "The guardians of these corporations should consist of all the justices of the peace, inhabiting within the several parishes thus united, together with a number of inhabitants chosen out of each parish, in proportion to the sum of money it pays."

It was probably in consequence of the prosperous beginning of the Bristol workhouse, which seems to have been chiefly owing to the active exertions of Mr. Cary, and the other promoters of the establishment, that city Workhouses came much into vogue during the reigns of King William and Queen Anne. Two years after the passing of the Bristol Act, Exeter, Hereford, Colchester, Hull, and Shaftesbury were authorized to erect Workhouses for the employment and maintenance of their Poor; and these powers were soon after extended to Lynn, Sudbury, Gloucester, Plymouth, and Norwich.

Few Acts of Parliament relative to the Poor were passed in the reign of Queen Anne, and consequently little information concerning parochial administration is to be found in the Statute Book. An Act passed in 1702, for continuing the Act of the 11th and 12th of King William III., indicates an abuse in one branch of police, the charges for vagrants, and suggests that the maintenance of the Poor was far from being economically managed. It is remarked that "great sums have been levied and expended for the conveying of vagrants, and that some justices of the peace give greater allowance to constables for conveying of vagrants than may

seem to be necessary ; and that owners of horses, carts, etc., are often extravagant in their rates and demands." The justices were therefore required to fix at every Easter Sessions the rates that shall be allowed for maintaining and carrying such vagrants, and that no payment shall be made for any charge for conveying a vagrant through the parish, until the chief constable had received a receipt from the adjoining county for the said vagrant, ordered by certificate to receive him, under a penalty of 20*s*.

In 1704 De Foe published an address to Parliament, entitled " Giving Alms no Charity," in which he lays down the following heads as fundamental maxims, which he attempts to make out by strong facts, and powerful arguments : 1, There is in England more labour than hands to perform it, and consequently a want of people, not of employment ; 2, No man in England, of sound limbs and senses, can be poor merely for want of work ; 3, All our Workhouses, Corporations and Charities for employing the Poor and setting them to work, as now they are employed, or any Act of Parliament to impower overseers of parishes, or parishes themselves, to employ the Poor, except as shall be hereafter excepted are, and will be, public nuisances, mischiefs to the Nation, which serve to the ruin of families and the increase of the Poor ; 4, That it is a regulation of the Poor, that is wanted in England, not a setting them to work. On the first he remarks that " the meanest labours in the nation afford the workman sufficient to support himself and family, which would never be if there was a want of work." He draws attention to the difficulty of raising soldiers in this kingdom, the vast charge that the kingdom is at to procure men, the many little, and not over honest, methods made use of to bring them into the service, and the laws made to compel them. " Why are gaols rummaged for malefactors, and the mint and prison for debtors ? The war is an employment of honour, and

suffers some scandal in having men taken from the gallows, and immediately from villains and house breakers, made gentlemen soldiers. If men wanted employment, and consequently bread, this could never be; any man would carry a musket rather than starve, and wear the Queen's cloth or anybody's cloth, rather than go naked and live in rags and want. The distresses of the Poor are either owing to infirmities merely providential, as sickness and old age, or to the improvidence of the labouring classes. Good husbandry is no English virtue; it may have been brought over; and in some places where it has been planted it has thriven well enough; but it is a foreign species; it neither loves, nor is beloved by, an Englishman." He then goes on to say that a Dutchman thrives and leaves his children in a very good condition on the wages, on which an Englishman "just lives." We are, he says, "the most *lazy diligent* nation in the world: there is nothing more frequent than for an Englishman to work till he has got his pocket full of money, and then go and be idle, or perhaps drunk, till it is all gone, and perhaps himself in debt. I once paid 6 or 7 men together on a Saturday night, the least 10*s*. and some 30*s*. for work, and have seen them go with it directly to the ale-house, lie there till Monday, spend every penny, and run into debt to boot, and not give a farthing of it to their families, though all of them had wives and children. From hence comes poverty, parish charges and beggary."

De Foe points his arguments very strongly against Sir Humphrey Mackworth's Bill, the chief object of which was the setting the people to work for various manufactures, which had been before exercised in England. Such a scheme he considers as perfectly fallacious. "The manufactures," he says, "are such as are managed to a full extent, and the present accidents of war and foreign interruption of trade considered, rather beyond the vent of them than under it. Suppose

now a Workhouse for the employment of poor children sets them to spinning of worsted. For every skein of worsted these poor children spin, there must be a skein the less spun by some poor person or family that spun it before; suppose the manufacture of making bays to be erected in Bishopsgate Street, unless the makers of these bays can find out at the same time a trade or consumption for more bays than were made before, for every piece of bays so made in London, there must be a piece the less made at Colchester." This, he says, is only "transporting manufacture from Colchester to London, and taking the bread out of the mouths of the Poor of Essex, to put it into the mouths of the Poor of Middlesex." unless the promoters of the Bill can "find out some new trade, some new market, where the goods they make shall be sold, where none of the same goods were sold before." He reprobates the idea that it is the business of the Legislature to find the Poor work, rather than oblige them to find work for themselves. "From this mistaken notion come all our Workhouses and Corporations. The erection of parochial manufactures, in order to parcel out work to every door, will be ruinous to the manufacturers themselves, will turn thousands of families out of their employments, and will take the bread out of the mouths of diligent and industrious families, to feed vagrants, thieves and beggars, who ought much rather to be compelled by legal methods to seek that work which it is plain is to be had. Begging is, in the able, a scandal upon their industry, and in the impotent a scandal upon the country. Giving alms is no charity. People have such a notion in England of being pitiful and charitable that they encourage vagrants and by a mistaken zeal, do more harm than good. The poverty of England does not lie among the craving beggars, but among poor families, where the children are numerous, and where death or sickness has deprived them of the labour of their father; these are the houses where the sons and daughters of

Charity, if they would order it well, should seek out and relieve. An alms ill directed may be charity to the particular person, but becomes an injury to the public, and no charity to the nation." Unfortunately, although De Foe pretends that he could propose a regulation of the Poor, which would put a stop to poverty, beggary, parish charges, assessments, and the like, he refrains, because he will not presume to lead a body so august, so wise, and so capable as the Honourable Assembly to whom his treatise is addressed.

A very learned writer in the reign of Queen Anne,[1] after admitting that before the Reformation the Poor were in general maintained by the clergy, proposed as the most obvious and effectual remedy for the great and growing evil of the Poor's Rates, then estimated at a million a year, to put all the Poor in the nation once more upon the Church lands and tithes, which maintained them before, and that the clergy should have their share for as much of them as was left in their hands. It was added that if the impropriators objected to this, a just and adequate consideration should be given to them for their lands and tithes so held by a tax raised for that especial purpose; and then the Poor be thrown, altogether and entirely, on the clergy, together with such restored lands and tithes, a proposal which I am persuaded would, if carried, have effected a considerable saving to the nation, whatever objections there may have been to such a plan.

In 1714 John Bellers republished his "Proposals for employing the Poor in a College of Industry," with some additional observations. The following introductory remarks to his plan are both original and true: "1, The Poor without employment are like rough diamonds; their worth is unknown. 2, Whereas regularly labouring people are the kingdom's greatest treasure and strength; for without labourers there can be no

[1] See Leslie's Essay on the "Divine Right of Tithes," in his works, folio ed., 1721, ii, 873.

lords; and if the poor labourers did not raise much more food and manufacture than what did subsist themselves, every gentleman must be a labourer, and every idle man must starve. 3, The best materials for building, put together without order or method, are little better than rubbish, until they are regularly placed. 4, The best horses, whilst wild at grass, are but useless and chargeable; and the same are mankind, until they are regularly and usefully employed." His method of employing the Poor in this college differs from the schemes which had been put forward by previous writers, chiefly in that he purposes to employ them in reclaiming the waste and uncultivated land of England instead of in manufacture. "In fifty-eight years time such a body as our present indigent Poor are would be able (if employed about it) to turn all our waste lands into fruitful fields, orchards and gardens, and their mean cottages into colleges, and fill our barns with plenty of bread, and our store-houses with manufactures, which would greatly encourage the increase of our people."

Little alteration was made in the Poor System by the laws passed in the reign of George I. It appears, however, from 5 Geo. I. c. 8, that it was not an uncommon practice for persons to quit their parish, and to go abroad, leaving their wives and children a burden upon the parish, although they had estates, which might contribute to maintain them. It was, therefore, enacted that in such a case the justices might seize their chattels, and receive so much of the rents and profits of the lands and tenements, as they might consider necessary for discharging the parish for the wives and children who were left. By 9 Geo. I. c. 7, it was also enacted that whereas under colour of a proviso in the 3rd and 4th William and Mary (which directed that no person should receive relief but by the authority of a justice of the peace), many persons had applied to justices, and upon undue suggestions, false or frivolous

pretences, had obtained relief. No person should be relieved until oath had been made before such justice, of some matter which he should judge to be reasonable cause; and until the person had applied to a vestry, or two of the overseers, and had been refused relief; and such justice had summoned two of the overseers of the Poor, to shew cause why such relief should not be given. It was likewise directed that the names of every person, whom the justices should think fit to be relieved, should be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, as one who is to receive relief so long as the cause continued and no longer; and that no officer or any parish should (except upon sudden and emergent occasions) bring to account any money given to persons not registered in the book, under penalty of £5. The same Act also provides that the churchwardens and overseers of the Poor of any parish, with the consent of the major part of the parishioners in the vestry, or other public meeting for that purpose assembled, upon usual notice given, may purchase or hire any house or houses in the parish or place, and contract with persons for the lodging, employing and keeping of poor persons. And in case any poor person shall refuse to be lodged, kept, and maintained in such house or houses, such person shall be put out of the parish books, and not entitled to relief. The Act also allows small parishes to unite for such a purpose, and for one parish to contract with another, under certain conditions, to lodge and maintain their Poor, provided that no settlement shall be acquired by such a contract. Another section directs that no person shall acquire a settlement by purchasing an estate for which less than £30 *bona fide* shall have been paid, and no person shall gain a settlement by paying the scavenger's or highway rates.

Very soon after the passing of this Act many parishes availed themselves of the powers which it conferred, in hiring or erecting Workhouses and letting out their Poor to a contractor; and in a publication which

appeared in 1725, entitled "An Account of Several Workhouses," it is said that this method of maintaining the Poor had met with approbation and success throughout the kingdom. It was reprinted in 1732, with considerable additions, and in that form affords much curious information respecting 60 Workhouses in the country, and about 50 in the metropolis.

The principal projector and undertaker of most of these establishments was a Mr. Matthew Marryott, of Olney, in Buckinghamshire, whose activity appears, in several instances, to have reduced the Poor's Rates very considerably. The indefatigable zeal of the planners of the Workhouses was in most instances (not only where Mr. Marryott was the manager or contractor, but in other places) for the few years preceding the publication of the account of the Workhouses, rarely unsuccessful, but from the following view (see p. 50) of the state of several parishes, which had adopted Workhouses between 1720 and 1732, their expenses for the Poor in 1776, and their assessments in the years 1783, 1784, and 1785, it will appear that the charge of maintaining the Poor advanced very rapidly, notwithstanding the aid of Workhouses, and, perhaps as rapidly as in those parishes, which have continued to relieve the Poor by occasional pensions at their own habitations.

The Bristol Workhouse, called the Mint, was opened in 1696. The expense (exclusive of benefactions for establishing it, which amounted to £6,000) at first was £2,376 a year. The project, however, did not succeed and before 1714 the Corporation which managed it had spent all the benefactions, and had got into considerable debt. Before 1731 they had, by good management, paid off all their debts and saved £3,000. In 1756 the rates amounted to £4,500; in 1766, £6,732 7*s.* 3½*d.*; in 1776, £11,500; in 1786, £12,000; and in 1796, £13,000. A long account by Mr. Cary, of the Mint Workhouse, is given in a footnote, from which it appears that the inmates consisted of 100 girls, who

Name.	Date of op'ng of W'kh'se.	Exs. before opening.	Exs. after opening year—amount.	1776 £ s. d.	1783 £ s. d.	1784 £ s. d.	1785 £ s. d.
St. Andrew's, Holborn	1727	£1,000	1730—£750	1329 11 4	1538 10 3	1606 3 10	1589 6 10
St. Giles-in-the-Fields	1726	——	1727–£903 18 3½	5156 1 6	5195 2 3	5355 0 0	6232 9 2
St. Paul's, Bedford	—	£300	1721–£197 11 0½ 1722–£177 5 7¾	716 16 3	830 6 6	826 12 7	837 4 7
Westham, Essex	1726	About £460	1727–£230 3 11	1707 3 9	2509 7 5	2329 1 11	2899 6 3
[1] St. Alban's	1722	£566 19 3½ in 1720 £516 19 2½ in 1721	1722–£387 0 0 1723–£275 14 2 1724–about £200	235 3 0	455 4 10	414 10 3	438 0 2
[2] Hemel Hempst'd, Herts	1720	£730	1722–£388 8 8¾	822 4 10	858 11 0	966 14 3	966 15 7
Chatham	1725	Average £945	1729 and 1730 av.–£574	1092 1 8	1537 8 1	1309 3 10	1504 18 9
Maidstone	1720	1718– £929 1719—£1062	1724–£530	1555 7 10	2251 14 6	2241 10 0	2271 9 1
Stroud	Before 1730	£230	Reduced one-half in 1730	429 9 4	495 11 0	495 15 0	495 15 0
Tonbridge	1726	£570	£380	1114 0 3	1365 8 11	1493 11 7	1695 19 1
Harborough, Leicestershire	About 1722	£170	£100	314 5 5	478 12 11	370 11 9	351 13 3
[2] St. Martin's, Leicester	1724	£250 or £300	£100 (as expected)	620 5 5	889 1 11	931 1 11	981 7 0
Peterborough	1724	£499 18 6¼	£334 8 0½	919 16 6	910 14 7	904 0 2	905 17 9
Chertsey, Surrey	1727	1725—£598 9 1½ 1726—£607 6 3½	1728–£395 0 0	758 19 7	1271 17 0	639 12 0	972 11 9
Bradford, Wilts	1727	£700 or £800	1731–less than £400	1775 2815 12 1	1785 2415 15 0	1795 2063 17 10	

[1] It is not clear whether the writer comprehends in his account the borough only, or the three parishes of which the town of St. Albans consists.

[2] Mr. Marryott undertook the care of the Poor for three years at the charge of the parish for £40 a year, and a coat of 30s. value.

[3] In 1740 the Poor's Rate amounted to £244 17s. 3½d., in 1760 to £736 18s. 8d., and in 1794 to £1,109 14s. 6d.

were taught to spin worsted yarn. They were well fed and looked after, "but we soon found that the great cause of begging proceeded from the low wages for labour; for after about eight months' time, our children could not get half as much as we expended in their provisions. The manufacturers who employed us were always complaining the yarn was spun coarse, but would not advance above 8*d*. per pound for spinning, and we must either take this or have no work." The committee accordingly attempted to improve the fineness of the yarn, and for this purpose purchased a snap reel, by which they endeavoured to discourage coarse work and encourage fine. This was successful, and they then offered employment to all the Poor of the city at the rates they proposed, and paid ready money. In a few weeks they had a sale for fine yarn as fast as they could make it, and got "from 8*d*. to 2s. per pound for spinning the same goods for which a little before the manufacturers paid but 8*d*., and were very well pleased with it, because they were now able to distinguish between the fine and the coarse yarn." This encouraged them to take on 100 boys whom they employed in spinning cotton wool, and weaving fustian, and subsequently the "ancient people" of the city whom they put to "such employment as were fit for their ages and strengths."

The scheme appeared to be very successful for a time, but as stated above, eventually failed for the following reasons: As soon as the Poor came to do anything tolerably well, they went off to sea, or were apprenticed in the city, and they made nothing perfect or merchantable from their work, but only spoiled the materials, so that instead of lessening the charge of maintaining the Poor they only increased it. It was then found necessary to prevent the utter ruin (to the city finances) to petition Parliament to grant them power to raise the sum of £3,500 per annum upon the

inhabitants, which was granted them. They then set aside their project of labour, and set themselves to find out those that had no right of settlement in the city sending them away to the places to which they belonged.

Joshua Gee, who published a "Treatise on Trade and Navigation" about 1728, remarks that "the magistrates of Bristol have that city under such excellent regulations that foreign beggars dare not appear; they are not troubled with obnoxious sights, so common with us; their Workhouses are terrible enough to them; for as soon as any of them are espied in the city they are taken up and whipped."

The way in which these Workhouses, on their first establishment, effected a reduction in parochial expenditure, was by deterring the Poor from making application for relief, and at Beverley, Oxford and Maidstone a notice that all applicants for relief would be sent into the Workhouse reduced the number by half, and in some cases more, as "some who received alms of the parish appear to have money of their own and strive to work to keep themselves out of these 'confinements' as they call them." The writer of the account of the Maidstone Workhouse says, "A *Workhouse* is a name that carries along with it an idea of correction and punishment, and many of our Poor have taken such an aversion to living in it upon that account, as all reason and argument in the world can never overcome." He recommends therefore, "that "it be called by a softer and more inoffensive name." Many Workhouses erected in George I.'s reign were called Houses of Maintenance, or, as in Empingham, House of Protection. The same writer also advocated the appointment of a master to direct the house, instead of leaving the matter in the hands of overseers, elected annually, "for different overseers will have different interests, and it will probably happen, as it did at Maidstone, that the Poor shall be employed one year

in the linen and another in the woollen manufactory, merely as it suits the interest of the managers."

Various attempts were made during the reign of George II., both in and out of Parliament, to procure a radical alteration in the system of parochial administration introduced by the 43rd of Elizabeth.

In 1735 Mr. Hay, a Member of the House of Commons, published his "Remarks on the Poor Laws," in which he maintains that the obligation each parish is under to maintain its own Poor, is the root from which all the evils relating to the Poor have sprung. He denounces a system which abridges a poor man of his liberty, on a suggestion or apprehension of his being likely to become chargeable, and declares that half the business at quarter sessions consists in deciding appeals on orders of removal. Of the oppression of the Poor he remarks that "a poor man is no sooner got into a neighbourhood, habitation and employment that he likes, but, upon humour or caprice of the parish, he is sent to another place, where he can find none of these conveniences; not certain long to continue there; for perhaps, after the appeal, he is sent back again, and then hurried to a third place; and sometimes is a great while before he knows where he shall be at rest. In the meantime he is at expense in removing his family and goods, or perhaps, not able to carry them with him, is forced to sell them at a disadvantage; he loses his time, and is obliged to neglect his work, which is his only support; so that 'tis no wonder if by this treatment he is very much impoverished; and from being only likely to become chargeable, is actually made so."

This account, however, appears to be much too highly coloured, as is also the statement of Adam Smith that "there is scarce a poor man in England, of forty years of age, who has not in some part of his life felt himself most cruelly oppressed by the Law of Settlements." "Their operation," Mr. Howlett justly re-

marks, "considered in a general view, has been very trifling indeed. How seldom do the young and healthy, while single, find any difficulty in changing their residence and fixing where they please? Does the tradesman or manufacturer, while his trade or manufacture flourishes, refuse to take an apprentice, or employ a journeyman, because he was born or settled in a different parish, or in a distant part of the kingdom? On the contrary, does he not eagerly look out for him and gladly receive him from whatever quarter he may come? Were it otherwise, how has it happened that Sheffield, Birmingham and Manchester have increased from almost mere villages to populous towns? As to servants in husbandry, they range from parish to parish, and from county to county, unthinking of and unrestrained by the Law of Settlement: the farmer without scruple hires them." Mr. Howlett adds that in his own parish—Toppesfield, Essex—out of 220 families, about forty belong to other places, and I believe there is no country in Europe in which a man changes his residence so often as in England. In 1781, out of 3,236 maimed persons examined at the Westminster General Dispensary, only one-fourth had been born in London, while four-sevenths came from the different counties of England and Wales.

Mr. Hay's account of the conduct of overseers appears to be not less exaggerated than his statement of the effect of the Laws of Settlement. "The overseers," he says, "are to raise taxes for their relief, and the majority of the parishioners are to nominate the persons who are to be relieved, and in what manner; and if any person is refused relief that wants it, he may complain to a justice of peace, who may order it. As this relief is to come out of the pockets of the parishioners, it is not their interest to be over-liberal; and they esteem him the best officer, who keeps the parish rates lowest, let the Poor be ever so much oppressed. So that they are often lodged in such houses, as will not

defend them from the weather; cloathed in rags that will not cover their nakedness; want fuel to keep them warm, and proper food to sustain nature; so that many turn beggars and thieves, out of necessity." Mr. Hay succeeded in getting the House of Commons to appoint a committee "to consider the laws in being relating to the maintenance and settlement of the Poor, and to consider what further provisions might be necessary for their better relief and amendment." On the 2nd May, 1735, Mr. Hay reported their resolutions to the House, and they were agreed to, with some inconsiderable alterations. They were to the effect that the laws relating to the Poor are "vexatious to the Poor, and of little advantage to the public; and ineffectual to promote the good ends for which they were intended." They advocated the establishment of Workhouses, Hospitals, and Houses of Correction in every county, provision of work for all who shall be sent thither or come voluntarily; the maintenance of foundlings and children of parents unable to provide for them in the hospitals, and the confinement of all idle and disorderly persons, vagrants and other criminals to hard labour in the Houses of Correction, and finally the consolidation of the laws on the subject. A Bill giving effect to these proposals was introduced but expired before the third reading.

An Act was passed in 1744 (17 Geo. II. c. 5) and subsequently extended by 23 Geo. III. c. 88, which defined (1) idle and disorderly persons, (2) rogues and vagabonds, and (3) incorrigible rogues, but it appears that the offences specified are of a very dubious nature, and that it must frequently require nice legal acumen to distinguish whether a person incurs any, and what, penalty, under the Vagrant Laws. The following are idle and disorderly persons: 1, Those threatening to run away and leave their wives and children on the parish; 2, those who tipple in ale-houses, and spend their money without making sufficient provision

for their families (see 32 Geo. III., c. 45); 3, those who unlawfully return to the parish or place from which they have been legally removed, without bringing a certificate; 4, those who, not having wherewithal to maintain themselves, live idly, without employment, and refuse to work for the usual wages; 5, those who beg in the streets and highways. The following are rogues and vagabonds, punishable with whipping and six months imprisonment: (a) Those who go about as patent gatherers, or gatherers of alms, under pretence of loss by fire or other casualty; (b) fencers, bearwards, strolling players of interludes or other entertainments; (c) minstrells (except those licensed by Lord Dutton in Cheshire); (d) those who pretend to be and wander in the habit of gipsies; (e) fortune tellers, pretending skill in palmistry, physiognomy, etc., or using any subtile craft to deceive or impose upon others; (f) those who play or bet at any unlawful games or plays; (g) those who run away and leave their wives and children on the parish; (h) petty chapmen, and pedlars wandering abroad without a licence; (i) those who wander abroad, and lodge in ale-houses, out-houses or the open-air, and do not give a good account of themselves; (j) those who wander abroad pretending to be soldiers or sailors, without proper certificates from their officers, or testimonials from magistrates; (k) those who wander abroad, pretending to go to work in harvest without a proper certificate from the parish; (l) those who have implements of house-breaking, or offensive weapons, with a felonious intent; (m) persons concerned in illegal lottery transactions, as described in the Lottery Acts, 27th, 33rd, 34th and 35th Geo. III.

Incorrigible rogues are punishable with two years' imprisonment, and are thus described: (a) Persons styled End Gatherers, buying, collecting, or receiving ends of yarn, in the woollen branch, against the Statute 13 Geo. I. c. 23 § 8; (b) persons who, being rogues and vagabonds, having escaped after being apprehended,

or who shall refuse to be examined by a magistrate, or who shall give false accounts of themselves after warning them of their punishment, or who refuse to be conveyed by a pass; (c) persons who shall escape out of any House of Correction, before the period of their imprisonment expires; (d) persons who, being punished as rogues and vagabonds, shall again commit the same offence.

In the year 1751 a pamphlet was published entitled "Considerations on Several Proposals for the Better Maintenance of the Poor," written apparently to prove that the alterations proposed by Mr. Hay, and by Mr. Henry Fielding, in his "Inquiry into the Cause of the Late Increase of Robbers," were unnecessary. The author objected to leaving the Poor to be maintained by voluntary contributions (as proposed in Mr. Hay's Bill), and thought that thousands would perish and much confusion would arise, if the Law, which had subsisted for nearly two hundred years, were thus suddenly repealed. He proposes that counties should be divided by the justices into smaller districts, and that the petty constables should carry out a system of inspection of the houses in their district, weekly, to ascertain the names of all inhabitants and lodgers, their trades and ways of life, whether their behaviour was orderly, and their children decently provided for and employed, also an account from the high constables, monthly, of the number of the Poor in each parish and how they were relieved and employed. It is not stated what was to be done with these reports, but as the pamphlet says that "by these means the Poor can be well employed, and the idle and profligate restrained," it is presumed that they were intended to prevent fraudulent application for relief. In 1752 Mr. Alcock proposed a plan very similar to that recommended by Mr. Hay and others. There is nothing new or striking in his scheme except the suggestion that vagrants and rogues convicted of a third offence should be "transported,

made slaves of, or whatever else the quarter sessions should deem proper," which I consider a very lax and undistinguishing expression for defining the punishment of idleness, which is an offence of so dubious a nature that it may be doubted whether it is not best to leave it to the punishment which when combined with poverty it will never fail to experience."

In 1753 a Bill was brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Potter, son of the Archbishop of Canterbury, for an annual census of the nation, and a registration of all births, marriages and deaths, together with the number of persons receiving alms in every parish and extra-parochial place in Great Britain, but though it passed through all stages in that House, it was rejected by the Lords. Nothing further was done at the time, but in 1776 the overseers of every parish in the kingdom were enjoined by Act of Parliament to make returns upon oath to various questions relative to the amount of assessments, number of Poor, Workhouses, and particular expenses of the charges of settlements, removals, appeals, and other litigations concerning the Poor; and in 1786 similar measures were adopted by Parliament for acquiring further information on the same subject.

At this period the Poor Laws seem to have attracted very general attention, both in and out of Parliament, and two schemes, drawn up by Sir Richard Lloyd and the Earl of Hillsborough, were published in 1753, but neither of them passed into Law. The Earl's scheme proposed the abolition of the whole system of removals and settlements, and the creation in every county of a corporation consisting of such persons as shall subscribe not less than £5 annually towards the relief of the Poor of the county, who were to act as governors, and upon whose recommendation the Poor who were unable to maintain themselves were to be admitted. The charges were to be defrayed out of these contributions, out of such money as may be granted by Parliament,

and by an assessment for two years at 3*d.* in the pound. The Poor were to be maintained by an assessment of 6*d.* in the pound yearly, and by collections in the churches on Sunday. Overseers were also allowed, with the leave of the Lord of the Manor, to enclose and improve commons, not exceeding ten acres a year, for the use and benefit of the Poor. The scheme of Sir Richard Lloyd recites that the education of the Poor cannot be so well effected, nor the Poor so comfortably maintained in small numbers, and distinct families, as in large and well-ordered houses set apart for that purpose; and proposes that the justices, in sessions, shall divide their county into as many districts as they think proper; and that they, and other persons of considerable property, to be chosen as jurors, shall be guardians of the Poor within the respective districts; that subscribers of certain sums shall be additional guardians. They were to be a body corporate, with power to erect a *House of Industry*, the expense to be defrayed by a lottery, by voluntary contributions, and (if requisite) by assessments. Of this scheme Dr. Burn (History of the Poor Laws, 196) remarks that it does not oblige overseers to send all the Poor to the House of Industry, but only to pay for those they do send; others not so fit to be removed may, he supposes, be sustained at home, out of the Poor's Rate, as before. In Lord Hillsborough's scheme this kind of relief, on sudden emergencies, seems to rest wholly on voluntary contributions.

In 1753 Henry Fielding, the well-known magistrate, published a "Proposal for making an effectual provision for the Poor," in which he attacks the system of the Poor Law. He considers the Poor who are unable to work to be very few in number, and considers that they might be left to private charity for support. He proposes administrative reform for dealing with those who are able and willing to work, and holds that the failure of the system is due to the whole work having

been left to the overseers, who have been told by the Act of Elizabeth "what they are to do (viz., to employ the industrious Poor) rather than how they shall do it." "It is true that the Act directs them, by a parochial tax, to raise a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron and other ware and stuff, to set the Poor on work: a direction so general and imperfect that it can be no wonder, considering what sort of men the overseers have been, that it should never have been carried into execution." He then describes a system which he proposes should be adopted in Middlesex, with rules for regulating the hours of work, of rest, and recreation; the appointment of officers; the jurisdiction of the governor; the punishment of petty offences; and the instruction of labourers in all kinds of manufacture; upon the due execution of which, he says, the success of his plan will principally depend.

This plan, Dr. Burn observes, seems to have been intended as supplementary to the schemes of Sir Richard Lloyd, and Lord Hillsborough, but notwithstanding the very sanguine hopes which Fielding entertained of its success, it does not appear that it received any attention from the Legislature. The institutions he proposed seem more calculated for a populous city than for the generality of country parishes. The following remarks in the introduction to his proposal are, however, of value: "That the Poor are a very great burthen, and even a nuisance, to this kingdom; that the laws for relieving their distresses and restraining their vices have not answered those purposes; and that they are at present very ill provided for, and much worse governed, are truths which every man, I believe, will acknowledge. Such have been the unanimous complaints of all writers who have considered this matter, down from the days of Queen Elizabeth; such is apparently the sense of our present Legislature, and such is the universal voice of the nation. The facts

must be very glaring that can produce this unanimous concurrence of opinion; and so in truth they are. Every man, who hath any property, must feel the weight of that tax which is levied for the use of the Poor; and every man of understanding must see how absurdly it is applied. So very useless, indeed, is this heavy tax, and so wretched its disposition, that it is a question whether the Poor or the Rich are more dissatisfied; or have indeed greater reason to be dissatisfied; since the plunder of the one serves so little to the real advantage of the other; for, while a million yearly is raised among the former, many of the latter are starved; many more languish in want and misery; of the rest, many are found begging or pilfering in the streets to-day, and to-morrow are locked up in gaols and bridewells. Of all these deplorable evils we have constant experience before our eyes. The sufferings of the Poor are indeed less observed than their misdeeds; not from any want of compassion, but because they are less known; and this is the true reason why we hear them so often mentioned with abhorrence, and so seldom with pity. They starve, and freeze, and rot among themselves; but they beg and steal, and rob among their betters."

In 1758 a pamphlet, written by James Massie, ascribes the increase of the Poor to monopolizing farms and enclosures of common land; it also says that the decrease in the number of labourers, and many other evils, have been occasioned by removing multitudes from the solid basis afforded them by agricultural employment to the artificial and fluctuating basis of trade. He proposes that an equal assessment should be laid on the full rental of all persons of property; that poor persons should be entitled to relief in every part of England where they happen to be when they became chargeable; and that a sufficient number of Poor-houses for their reception should be established in each county. In 1761 an Act of Parliament was passed for the regular uniform

register (according to the two schedules contained in the Act) of all Parish Poor under four years of age within the bills of mortality. And, probably owing to the representations by Mr. Hanway of the dreadful mortality occasioned by the practice of nursing parish children within the walls of crowded Workhouses, an Act was passed in 1767 obliging all parishes, within the bills of mortality, to send all parish children under six years of age, within a fortnight after they were born in, or received into, the Workhouses, to a distance not less than three miles from any part of the cities of London and Westminster, to be nursed till they are six years of age, and maintained afterwards till they are put out apprentices or returned to the Workhouse : not less than two shillings and sixpence weekly was to be paid for the maintenance of such child for the first six years of his age, and not less than two shillings weekly till the child was taken away. A premium of ten shillings was to be paid to every nurse who had nursed a child one year to the satisfaction of the five guardians of the parish poor children. The parish officers were likewise empowered and directed to provide proper clothing for every child sent into the country, and to defray all expenses for conveyance, medicines, burials, etc. A stop was also put on the practice of placing out boys as apprentices to the age of twenty-four years, and authority was substituted to bind them for seven years, or till they reach the age of twenty-one, and no longer.

That this Act has preserved the lives of many thousand children there can be no doubt. Dr. Price (Observation on Revenue Payments, 5th ed. 1. 259) allows that it has prevented a great number of deaths, and says that before it passed almost all parish infants in the metropolis died in the first six years. Its operation should be taken into consideration in all calculations drawn from burials within the bills of mortality respecting the population of London. Mr. Howlett, indeed, in his examination of Dr. Price's Essay upon Population, reckons that a

deficiency of 2,100 burials a year has been occasioned by this Act.

Dr. Tucker, the Dean of Gloucester, in a pamphlet, published in 1760, considers the defects of the Poor System to be the division into parochial districts; the maintaining the Poor in separate families; and the annual election of parish officers. "Every person," he observes, "who is elected only for twelve months will naturally adopt that scheme which will give him the least trouble during his office, whatever it may give his successor, or however it may affect the public." He proposes that "instead of single parishes for the maintenance of the Poor, several should be incorporated together for this purpose, though to be distinct and separate in all other respects as before." He proposed that all parishes in any market town or city and all others within a distance of six miles should "have the liberty of incorporating together, and of making that town or city the centre of their incorporation." But no incorporations whatever should exceed the bounds of their respective counties, and wherever it can be done the incorporating parishes ought to confine themselves to the divisions already known and established, viz., *hundreds*. All persons residing for three months in the year or upwards within these associated districts possessed of the yearly value of £50 for life, above all charges, or of £1,000 in money or effects shall be deemed the hereditary, legal and perpetual guardian of the Poor within such district, with the mayor and aldermen, the minister and churchwardens and chapelwardens of each parish or chapel for the time being. The taxes for the support of the Poor, the Dean thinks, are not founded on a judicious principle. He says the *first* view in imposing such taxes should be to remove or lessen all such causes or temptations as may have contributed towards making the people poor, and *secondly* to raise a sum of money sufficient to maintain those who are already become poor, and to defray such

expenses as can not now be prevented, and must therefore be submitted to. With this view, besides taxes on the stock-in-trade, dwelling houses, and lands of bachelors and childless widowers, he proposes laying heavy taxes on coffee houses, taverns, inns and ale houses; on billiard tables and other apparatus for play; on theatres, puppet shows, fights of wild beasts and other spectacles of the like nature exhibited for profit or gain; on music, gardens, bowling greens, cockpits, horse and foot racers; on dogs, and on electioneering, and that the turnpikes be doubly taxed on Sundays, and a moiety of their receipts applied to the use of the Poor. If these taxes should not prove sufficient all lands and stock should be moderately assessed.

In Burns' "Justice of the Peace," which was published in 1754, are a few remarks relative to the origin of the compulsory provision for the Poor, but this able magistrate entered more fully into the subject in his "History of the Poor Laws," which he published in 1764. The object of this work was (as he informs us in his preface) to "set forth what laws for the Poor were anciently in this kingdom; what the laws now are; and what proposals have been made by ingenious and public-spirited men, from time to time, for the amendment of the same." He divides the Poor into three classes, and arranges the Statutes relative to them under a threefold division. "Acts," he says, "have been made for the employment of some; for the encouragement of others; and for the maintenance of the rest." The first class he denominates servants, labourers and artificers; the second, rogues and vagabonds; and the third, impotent Poor. He concludes a very full historical deduction of the Statutes on this subject with some judicious observations of his own, and offers a short abstract of the principal proposals which had been made before his time for remedying the defects in the Poor Laws: the reason, he thinks, why none of them had succeeded is that they generally take it for granted that the 43rd

Eliz. was the first compulsory Statute, and propose expedients which had occurred to the Legislature long before.

Dr. Burns objects to all these schemes: he says they aim at too much at once. "To repeal all the present laws relating to the Poor; to abolish the whole doctrine of settlements; to be at a certain expence in erecting Workhouses, with an uncertain prospect of their success, these and other like proposals, though they may possibly be good in themselves, yet seem to put too much to the hazard, since it may happen in an unexperimented case that the remedy may be worse than the disease." He proposes two regulations; till this is done, he says, all other regulations of the wisest Legislature upon earth will be vain and fruitless. The infallible way to restrain beggars and vagrants is to "*give them nothing.*" If none were to give, none would beg; and the whole mystery and craft would be at an end in a fortnight. If the principal is punished it is not reasonable the accessory should go free. In order to which, let all who relieve a common beggar be subject to a penalty. His other regulation is intended to correct the fundamental error of leaving the Poor almost wholly to the care of the overseers. He exhibits the following animated though somewhat too highly coloured picture of a parish overseer. He says "the office of an overseer of the Poor seems to be understood to be this: to keep an extraordinary look out to prevent persons coming to inhabit without certificates, and to fly to the justices to remove them; and if a man brings a certificate, then to caution the inhabitants not to let him a farm of £10 a year, and to take care to keep him out of all parish offices, to warn them if they will hire *servants* to hire them half yearly, or by the month, or by the week, or by the day, rather than by any way that shall give them a settlement; or if they do hire them by the year, to endeavour to pick a quarrel with them before the year's end, and so get rid of them: to main-

tain their Poor as cheap as they can at all events ; not to lay out twopence in prospect of any future good, but only to serve the present necessity : to bargain with some sturdy person to take them by the lump, who yet is not intended to take them, but to hang over them *in terrorem,* if they shall complain to the justices for want of maintenance : to send them out into the country a begging (for why cannot they go, as well as others they will mention, who are less sure in body ? and the feebler they are the more profitable will be their peregrination) : to bind out poor children apprentices, no matter to whom or to what trade, but to take special care that the master live in another parish : to move heaven and earth if any dispute happens about a settlement ; and in that particular to invert the general rule, and stick at no expense : to pull down cottages : to drive out as many inhabitants, and admit as few as possibly they can ; that is to depopulate the parish in order to lessen the Poor's Rate : to be generous indeed sometimes, in giving a portion with the mother of a bastard child, to the reputed father, on condition that he will marry her ; or with a poor widow (for why should she be deprived of the comforts of matrimony ?) always provided that the husband is settled elsewhere : or if a poor man, with a large family, appears to be industrious, they will charitably assist him in taking a farm in some neighbouring parish, and give him £10 to pay his first year's rent with ; and if any of their Poor has a mercantile genius, they will purchase him a box, with pins, needles, laces, buckles, and such like wares, and send him abroad in quality of a petty chapman : with the profits whereof, and a moderate knack of stealing, he can decently support himself, and educate his children in the same industrious way.—But to see that the Poor shall resort to church, and bring their children there to be instructed ; to contract with a master, that he shall procure his apprentice, at proper times, to be taught to read or write ; to provide a stock of materials, to set

the Poor on work; to see the aged and impotent comfortably sustained, the sick healed, and all of them cloathed with neatness and decency: these and suchlike, it is to be feared, are not so generally regarded, as the Laws intended, and the necessity of the case requires." But he does not propose to abolish the office altogether. "Let the overseers of the Poor continue," he says, "but let there be a general superintendent over a certain number of parishes, as the justices in sessions shall find most convenient. Let the overseers collect the Poor Rate, but let them be under the direction of their superior as to the disposal of it. The business of this officer should be to require the churchwardens and overseers within his district, to bring him an account in writing, and renew the same from time to time, of all the Poor within their respective parishes; distinguishing therein their age, ability of body, disposition of mind, trade and other employment, and what they are most apt and fit for; and from thence to take his measures for their relief and employment. And particularly, to provide work according to the manufactures of the several places; or to set up some easy manufacture, if there shall chance to be none."

In the year 1772 Baron Maseres published a "Proposal for Establishing Life Annuities in Parishes for the Benefit of the Poor," to which is annexed the draft of a Bill which in 1773 was brought into the House of Commons, by Mr. Dowdeswell, and supported by many members of eminent abilities. It passed in that House, but was thrown out by the Lords, in consequence of a speech from Lord Camden. The object of the Bill was to enable the rateable inhabitants of any parish, where there were four parish officers entrusted with the care of the Poor, to grant life annuities, payable every quarter to such inhabitants as should be willing to purchase them, provided they had no more than £20 a year, and were legally settled there. No annuity was to be granted to any man under 50 years of age,

or to any woman under 35. No sum less than £5 was to be received by the managers as the price of any annuity, and the proceeds and subsequent interest were to be expended in the purchase of 3 % bank annuities, but it was calculated that the purchasers would get 9 or 10 % for their money, if they purchased them only five years before the time of their commencement, and 30 or 40 % if they would be content to wait 25 or 30 years, which men under 30 years of age might do without any inconvenience. And the hope of this, it was presumed, would be sufficient inducement to them to employ some part of their money in this way, and to be diligent in their callings and frugal in their expenses, with that view. I confess that this scheme, however well calculated for the benefit of small tradesmen, does not appear to be well contrived to assist the *labouring Poor*. There are few persons in that sphere of life, with families, who could possibly accumulate £10 from their earnings in less than two years; and to a man who receives a shilling or eighteen pence a day, the temptation which the sum, accumulating in his drawer, would present, would be so great that we must suppose him to possess an uncommon degree of self denial to wait till it amounted to the sum requisite to purchase the parish annuity. Friendly societies are in every respect better calculated to attract the notice of the industrious labourer. They offer him the gratification of spending a social hour with his neighbours once a month, and of securing him a decent allowance in any future sickness, for a sum which seldom exceeds threepence a week. This is so trifling a deduction from his weekly earnings that I am convinced no member of a box-club has ever been sensible of any diminution in his domestic comforts from paying it. A friendly society, which required one annual payment of 10*s*. or 12*s*., would have very few subscribers.

In 1773, the statute labour on highways, which had been imposed on agricultural labourers, was more

accurately expressed than it had been in former Acts of Parliament, and the various laws on the subject reduced into one Act. The ancient Statutes respecting highways empower justices, with the assent of the constables of the towns, etc., to tax the inhabitants for the reparation of the highways (22. H. 8 c. 5.). By the 2 and 3 P. and M. c. 8, every cottager or labourer, who was not a hired servant by the year, was compelled to work four days in the year on the highways. This was extended by 5 Eliz. c. 13 to six days. This capitation tax (for in no other light can it be considered) was repealed in 1794; and a very humane clause was added to empower two justices to exempt poor persons, occupying rateable tenements, from highway assessments, if it appeared to them that such poor persons by reason of age, sickness, a numerous family or misfortune, were deserving objects of relief. There is a singular clause in one of the Highway Acts (3 W. and M. c. 12 § 24) which directs the magistrates at their Easter Sessions to assess and rate the prices of all land carriage of goods to be brought into any place within their jurisdiction by any common waggoner or carrier. This Statute, which does not seem to be repealed, is, I presume, as little enforced as those which direct the rating of wages.[1]

In Lord Kames's very animated Sketches of the History of Man, published in 1774, we meet with several pertinent remarks on the evil tendency of the Poor System. "The English plan," he says, "beside being oppressive, is grossly unjust. If it should be reported of some distant nation that the burden of maintaining the idle and profligate is laid upon the frugal and industrious, who work hard for a maintenance for themselves, what would one think of such a nation? Yet this is literally the case of England." This observation

[1] For an example of an assessment under this Act issued by the Justices of the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1703, see "History of Agriculture and Prices," vol. vii., p. 613.

is surprising in an author who declares "resolutely against a perpetual tax for the Poor"; for to leave the Poor to voluntary charity, whatever advantages it might have in other respects, would necessarily take the burthen from the shoulders of the hard hearted and unfeeling (who are now, as far as the regulations of human wisdom can oblige them, compelled to contribute in proportion to their abilities) and throw it entirely on the considerate and the benevolent. He asserts that depopulation, inequality in the price of labour and extravagant wages, are occasioned by the Poor Laws; that unhinging or suspending the exercise of charity relaxes every social virtue, by supplanting the chief of them; and that, in fact, the tax for the Poor has contributed greatly to the growth of that groveling passion of selfishness in England. To which I reply that I agree with Dr. Woodward, the late Bishop of Cloyne (who has detected many of the mistakes and inconsistencies in this (in many respects) ingenious Scotch writer), that the present age, whatever its characteristic vices may be, is an age of almsgiving. The evil, perhaps, most to be complained of is that benevolence is exercised without discrimination or selection, and that idleness is encouraged by what Lord Kames calls "an overflow of charity in the good people of England."

Notwithstanding his dislike to permanent taxes for the benefit of the Poor, Lord Kames suggested a plan which I think does not evince a strong capacity for legislative enactment. He proposed that a tax should be levied calculated to raise half the amount required to relieve the Poor, the other half to be raised by voluntary contribution, but every profligate, male or female, is to be excluded from the benefit. He added: "An officer must be appointed in every parish, with a competent salary, for apprehending and carrying to the Workhouse every strolling beggar. Those who are able to work may be locked up in a House of Correction,

to be fed with bread and water, but with liberty of working for themselves." On this plan Dr. Woodward very sensibly observes : " This mixed multitude must include the real Poor, as well as the impostor. Here is palpably a legal establishment ; an house, a maintenance, (though a scanty one), officers in and out of the house provided at the public expense. It is open to all—they need only beg to be admissible ; but those who cannot work must be confined to their wretched appointment of bread and water, whilst the sturdy vagabond adds to it the full produce of his labour.

The only difference between Lord Kames's and other plans for a Workhouse is that he allots much better maintenance to the impostor than the real Poor, or indeed the industrious labourer ; for he gives him the entire profits of his work, besides the accommodation and allowance of the house."

In 1775 an Act was passed repealing the Act of Elizabeth against erecting cottages unless four acres of land were laid to each cottage. Indeed, there does not seem to be much danger of cottages becoming too numerous. The present is said to be an age of speculation, and particularly so in building ; but adventurers in this line seldom think of erecting cottages in country parishes on the contingent possibility of letting them to labourers' families.

Several Acts were passed between 1760 and 1780 for the incorporation of parishes, districts and hundreds in different parts of the kingdom. It appears from 20 Geo. III. c. 36 that some doubts had arisen whether persons were compellable to receive such poor children as should be bound apprentices to them under such local Acts. It was therefore enacted that *all persons* to whom any child shall be appointed to be bound in pursuance of any Act for the relief of the Poor, shall be obliged to provide for them under the penalty of ten pounds ; but that no person shall be obliged to take a poor child apprentice, except he be an inhabitant

and occupier of lands in the parish to which such child belongs. The Act likewise directs that bastards born in Houses of Industry shall belong to the mother's parish.

The patriotic exertions of Mr. Gilbert, in attempting a reform in the Poor Laws, are well known to every person who has studied the subject. As early as the year 1765 he brought forward a Bill in the House of Commons for remedying the evils which were principally complained of; the distresses of the Poor, and the misapplication of the money raised for their relief. For this purpose he proposed to divide every county into large districts composed of a whole hundred, or at least a great number of parishes. His Bill, after much investigation, and after receiving considerable amendments, passed the House of Commons; but (as Mr. Gilbert informs us, from some circumstances unconnected with its merits) it was defeated by the Lords in a very full House on a division of 66 against 59. Between that period and the year 1787 no general Bill for the relief or regulation of the Poor was introduced into either House of Parliament. Mr. Gilbert, however, at different times proceeded, under the sanction of Parliament, to make enquiries as a ground work for future proceedings. As a preliminary to future discussion an Act was passed in 1776 by which the overseers were directed to make returns in reply to certain questions which were sent them. The following were the results of their replies:

	£	s.	d.
Money raised by Assessment in England	1,679,585	0	0
Wales	40,731	14	7
Amount of County Rates in England	131,387	18	11
Wales	6,268	11	9
Expended on the Poor in England	1,523,163	12	7
Wales	33,640	13	8
Expended in Rents of Workhouses or Habitations of the Poor in England	78,176	4	0
Wales	2,120	10	7
Expended in Litigation about Settlements, Removals, etc., in England	33,935	18	0
Wales	1,156	2	8

In 1782 Mr. Gilbert presented three Bills for the

reform of the Poor Laws. The first, dealing with Houses of Correction, empowered justices at the mid-summer quarter sessions to nominate a justice to visit them and report at the next Michaelmas sessions, and required the keepers to report on the work performed there every quarter. The second, dealing with the better relief and employment of the Poor, was also passed, but the third, dealing with rogues, vagabonds, etc., was rejected. It appears from the preamble to the Bill, respecting the Poor, which was only intended as a temporary expedient, to afford some relief to distressed parishes, till an Act on a more general and extensive plan could be procured, that for want of proper regulations and management in the Poor Houses and control over the persons engaged in such contracts, the practice of letting out the Poor had been productive of great oppression. Dr. Burn remarks that, in many places, the overseers contrived to contract with obnoxious persons, of savage dispositions, for the maintenance of the Poor; not with a view of making their situation more comfortable, but to hold out a Workhouse as a terrible alternative to those who would not acquiesce in the pittances which the parish officers thought fit to allow them. And one such taskmaster oftentimes undertook for the Poor of several parishes or townships. The 22 Geo. III. c. 83 therefore repealed so much of the Act of Geo. I. as empowers parish officers to contract with any persons for employing and maintaining their Poor, and directs justices to appoint guardians with all the authority given to the overseers, except with regard to the making and collecting of rates; to appoint a governor of the Poor House, and a treasurer; and upon the recommendations of the guardians to choose a visitor, whose duty it is, either by himself or deputy, to inspect the accounts and management of the Poor House from time to time, and to settle the accounts between the guardians and the treasurer; to adjust all questions which may

arise concerning the persons who ought to be sent to the Poor House ; and, in general, to give such directions to guardians, governors, and treasurers, concerning these matters, as he thinks proper.

Few incorporations of parishes took place under this Act, since though it empowers the parishes uniting to borrow money upon the security of the Poor's Rate, it directs that persons sent to the Poor-house shall be maintained at the general expense of the parishes uniting. Mr. Wood, the author of a very interesting account of the Shrewsbury House of Industry, remarks that the Act expressly ordains that "no person shall be sent to the house, except such as become indigent by old age, sickness or other infirmities ; and except such orphan children as shall be sent thither by the order of the guardian and visitor, and such other children as necessarily go with their mothers for sustenance. With respect to idle and disorderly persons and those also who cannot get employment, it directs, not that they shall be taken into the house, and there set to work, but that the former shall be punished agreeably to the Vagrant Act, and the latter *hired out* by the Guardians. It likewise directs that the guardians shall be *annually* chosen, which would be attended with all the disadvantages of annual overseers. It does not invest the guardians with those powers which are absolutely necessary for the due government and employment of such a family, nor empower them to enact those particular bye-laws and regulations which local circumstances will always require." In 1786 the overseers were obliged by Act of Parliament (26 Geo. III. c. 56) to make returns to certain questions relative to the State of the Poor, and the following information was obtained :

Money Raised by Assessment :

	1783			1784			1785		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
England..	2,068,585	7	1	2,117,432	11	0	2,115,775	2	5
Wales....	63,901	5	1	68,456	16	8	69,129	16	6

Medium of those Years :

England .. £2,100,587 16*s.* 11*d.* Wales .. £67,161 16*s.* 9*d.*

Medium of Net Money annually paid to the Poor :

England .. £1,943,649 15*s.* 10*d.* Wales .. £60,588 0*s.* 1*d.*

Increase since 1776 .. £474,458 5*s.* 10*d.*

By another Act passed the same year (c. 58), ministers and churchwardens of each parish were directed to make returns showing what charitable donations for the benefit of poor persons existed in their respective parishes, whether they were in land or money, how they were vested, what the annual produce was. The returns, which were very defective and obscure, gave the following result :

	£	s.	d.
Money in England . . .	46,173	9	9
Wales . . .	2,070	0	8
Land in England . . .	206,301	8	8
Wales	4,166	0	2
Total . .	£258,710	19	3

The committee appointed to consider the returns added that they had reason to believe that very considerable further sums would appear to have been given for similar purposes, whenever proper means could be found for completing their discoveries, by extending the enquiry to corporations, companies and societies, as well as feoffees, trustees, and other persons.

In 1786 Mr. Acland published a scheme for enabling the Poor to provide for themselves by a system of insurance. He proposed to form a national club or society, to which every male and female in the kingdom, between 21 and 30 years of age, should be bound to subscribe, unless disabled by sickness, disorder or accident so as to be incapable of maintaining themselves, or, being married, shall have one or more children. After thirty, or if married and having children, subscription was permissive up to the age of 50, provided the person was in perfect health, paid one year's sub-

scription by way of entrance fee, and one shilling a year extra for each year that he or she should at entrance exceed 30. The subscription was to be 2*d.* a week for men and 1½*d.* for women. Males under 21, who received as wages at least 10*d.* a day, or being a servant in a house, the clear wages of 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, or £4 a year, and females receiving as wages 6*d.* a day, or the clear wages of 1*s.* 3*d.* a week, or £3 a year, were also bound to contribute. All persons possessed of freehold or leasehold estates to the amount of £10 a year and upwards shall be obliged to contribute as follows: Males, any sum they please not less than 1*s.* a week or more than 2*s.*; females, not less than 1½*d.* nor more than 1*s.* a week. For which 1½*d.* every female subscribes, during any time that she shall by sickness, or any other affliction (not brought on by any unlawful action), be confined to her room, and be incapable of labour, shall receive 3*s.* a week; and for any subsequent time that she shall be incapable of earning 3*d.* a day (in the estimation of the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the Poor, assisted by the parish apothecary), she shall receive 2*s.* a week during her incapacity; and after the age of 65, 10½*d.* a week till 70; and, after that period, or any time before, that the above-mentioned persons think her incapable of earning 3*d.* a day, the weekly sum of 1*s.* 4½*d.*; and after 75, or at any time before, that she is adjudged to be incapable of labour, 3*s.* a week, during life; and for every legitimate child more than two that shall be alive at the same time, and be under 8 years of age, she shall in her own right, be entitled to the weekly sum of 1*s.*, and in like manner the weekly contribution of 2*d.* whether male or female, shall be entitled, in the first instance, to 6*s.* a week, and in the second (while under an incapacity of earning, the man 6*d.*, or the woman 3*d.* a day), to 3*s.* a week; and for every living child more than two (under the above restrictions) to 1*s.* 4½*d.* a week; and after 65 to 1*s.* a week; and after 70 to

1*s.* 7½*d.* a week; and after that period, or any time before, that he or she may be rendered incapable of all labour, to 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. If one parent died the other is to receive the allowance for the children; if both, the orphans receive the parents' pay until 8 years old, but the sum which the parents would have had to subscribe is to be deducted from the pay. No person worth £1,000 or having an income of £50 a year is to receive anything except the allowance for the children, nor shall any person in the fourth and fifth instances receive anything if the possessor of £500 or £25 a year. Any subscriber, on meeting with an accident or falling ill, is to notify the minister or in his absence a churchwarden or overseer, who shall visit within 24 hours, and if need be send for the parish apothecary to inspect the patient, and take care of the disorder or accident and every parish is required to appoint a parish apothecary, one half of whose salary is to be paid by the parish and one-half by the club. The money is to be collected every Sunday evening after service, and churchwardens and overseers, who are to be paid a reasonable sum if called out of the parish on the business of the club, are not to be paid for the Sunday attendance, inasmuch as not only no time will be taken from their worldly employments, but the present proper business of their office respecting the Poor, will at length become almost evanescent.

In a pamphlet published in 1788 entitled "The insufficiency of the causes to which the increase of our Poor and of the Poor's Rates have been ascribed, etc.," Mr. Howlett reviews Mr. Acland's plan, which he justly remarks goes upon the supposition that on an average only one in 48 of the whole society is (except from old age) so incapacitated, without offering any evidence that such a calculation is well founded. His other objections are "that this promised future income, instead of sharpening the spur to industry, will only blunt it," being of the opinion that the prospect of a

secured future income would lead to extravagance, and prevent saving, and that as wants and necessaries increase the labourer would fall behind in his contributions and sink into poverty sooner than he would otherwise have done. He further remarks that the plan proposes no measures to meet a sudden rise in the price of provisions, the incidental severity of the seasons, or scarcity of work, and yet from these alone almost all the distresses of the Poor have arisen in the past and will do so in the future, an objection which would apply with equal force to the friendly societies.

Howlett attributes the distress of the Poor to four causes: 1, Our injudicious system of Poor Laws and their defective execution; 2, The great number of our ale-houses; 3, The growing wickedness and profligacy of the Poor; 4, The engrossing of farms. But the grand and leading cause of the increase in the number of the Poor has, he thinks, been the greater advance in the price of provisions, than in the price of labour. The year 1753, when so many plans for the relief of the Poor were proposed, was a time of high prices, while from an examination of the medium annual expenses of maintaining the Poor in 42 parishes, in Kent, Essex, and Suffolk, he infers that the expense of maintaining the Poor is actually decreasing, and that instead of an increase of £474,000 in nine years, as stated by the committee of the House of Commons, they had increased in the eleven years between 1776 and 1787 by about £250,000 only, which, considering what had taken place in that time, is "a mere trifle." An expensive war brought a debt of more than a hundred millions. A variety of taxes upon the necessaries of life, such as soap, candles, leather, etc., have increased their prices one fifth. Wheat is 6*s.* a bushel, malt above 4*s.* 6*d.*, butter and cheese have risen 1½*d.* per lb., meat 1*d.* Twelve years ago our labouring Poor were scarce six millions; they are now six millions and a quarter, including wives and children. Supposing

each individual of them consumes a quarter of wheat in a year, the sum expended is upwards of fourteen millions. Allow that leather, soap, candles, meat, beer, butter, cheese have risen in price but one-fourth, we have an addition of £700,000 a year, for the maintenance of our labouring Poor, without noticing the increase in their numbers. Wages, on the other hand, have not increased, and in some branches of manufacture are actually lower. The only advantage the labouring Poor enjoy more than a few years before is in piece work, a custom to the mutual present benefit of master and labourer more and more adopted, but this is confined to particular kinds of work and to particular seasons of the year, while the greatest gain is to persons of peculiar dexterity and ability. After, therefore, every reasonable deduction is made, we may fairly conclude that the additional expense of maintaining the labouring Poor in the same degree of comfort that they were in ten or twelve years before, is not less than £700,000, of which only £250,000 is paid by the middle and higher ranks; "the rest is squeezed out of the flesh and blood and bones of the Poor."

In the thirty years between 1746 and 1776, Mr. Howlett thinks the inequality was more manifest. Between 1746 and 1765 wheat was only 32*s.* a quarter, but from the latter date to 1776 above 45*s.*, which alone must have increased the annual expense of living by nearly four millions to counterbalance which the rise in the price of labour was little if anything more than 2*d.* in the shilling, e.g., labourers out of doors in the country got 10*d.* a day in 1737, and 12*d.* in 1787; threshers, 9*d.* and 12*d.*; labourers out of doors near great towns, 16*d.* and 16*d.*; and in the cloth manufacture scribblers got 14*d.* a day in 1737, and 15*d.* in 1787; shearmen 15*d.* and 18*d.*; weavers' wages in the coarse trade were raised 2*d.* a day, but nothing in the superfine; while women spinners got 6*d.* in

1737, and *7d.* in 1787. I am convinced, however, that from enquiries I have made, the price of labour in most parts of England, except in the vicinity of great towns, had nearly doubled "in the last 60 years."[1]

Various other plans were offered to the consideration of the Legislature. About this period, Mr. Townsend, in a dissertation on the subject, published in 1787, argues very forcibly on the injustice, aggression, and impolicy of the Poor Laws. He thinks that the labouring Poor are greatly deficient both in industry and economy, and that till the degree of pressure be increased, they will never acquire habits of diligent application, and of severe frugality. To effect this, the Poor's rates might, he says, in the space of nine years, be reduced nine-tenths; and the remainder being reserved as a permanent supply, the Poor might safely be left to the free bounty of the Rich, without the interposition of any other law. But if the whole system of compulsory charity were abolished, it would be still better for the State. To assist the industrious Poor he proposes that, in every parish, one or more workshops should be established, in which they might be certain of employment, and of daily pay for the work performed. Friendly societies, he thinks, have been productive of good results, and in some cases have reduced the rates. But he objects that the contribution from each member is the same, without respect to his ability, the proportion of his gains, or the number of his children, and that the Poor are left to their own discretion to join a society or not. He, therefore, proposes that a system should be made compulsory, that the unmarried man should pay one-quarter of his wages weekly, and the father of four young children not more than one-thirtieth of his income, while no man should be entitled to relief from the parochial fund, who did not belong to a friendly society. He also recommends the division of common fields in severalty, leaving the inclosure of the lands

[1] i.e., from 1736 to 1796.

to every owner's discretion; the laying a tax on alehouses, and upon horses used in husbandry, to be gradually increased till farmers have returned to the use of oxen.

The subject was again taken up by Mr. Gilbert, in 1787, on a very general and extensive plan, upon the principle of that which passed the House of Commons in 1765, but with this difference, that, instead of large districts, he proposed a union of parishes into smaller districts, as more to the situation and convenience of country parishes, and less likely to be attended with the great expense of large buildings. Mr. Gilbert proposed to carry his plan with execution by means of (1) a board of commissioners, (2) a district committee, (3) a district agent, (4) subordinate overseers, (5) a county committee. The justices at quarter sessions, are to choose commissioners, and unite not more than 13 parishes, nor less than three in a union. The commissioners are to appoint not more than 40 nor less than 20 committeemen, and if they decide to adopt the Act, the district shall be declared incorporated, and a district committee is to be ballotted for, and overseers elected. New committeemen, who must, except in the case of the clergy, have a property qualification, are elected every year. Parishes are to choose three overseers, from whom the committee select one, whose duty it is to enquire into the condition of the workhouses, and of the Poor, and to report to the district agent, who is appointed by the district committee. This body is authorised to apply what sums of money they think proper for paying the contributions of the Poor to clubs and friendly societies and for providing books and paying teachers at Sunday schools, and to provide a school for the teaching of poor children. After the Act is adopted the Poor Rate is not to exceed the sum raised on the medium of the years 1783–4–5, but a sum not exceeding four years' rates may be borrowed for buildings, etc.

The success of Mr. Gilbert's plan was in a great measure dependent on the regular attendance of country gentlemen to form the county committee, in which the whole controlling power was intended to be vested. Mr. Bate Dudley, who in 1788 published some observations to show the impracticability of Mr. Gilbert's proposals, remarks that its provisions would probably be frustrated "from the extreme reluctance with which country gentlemen attach themselves to public business." He himself proposes a modification and strict enforcement of the laws already enacted, and ascribes to the *discretionary* power, which overseers have too long been suffered to exercise, contrary to every principle of justice and policy, "the alarming increase of paupers, as well as of Poor's rates." Appeals from orders of removal, he says, form a very heavy part of the parochial burden, and two-thirds of those heard at quarter sessions are either totally groundless, or prove wanton litigation between neighbouring parishes.

A short time after the failure of Mr. Gilbert's plan, Sir William Young brought forward a Bill, of which the following are the principal features: (1) No person shall be removed till actually chargeable; provided that upon due summons, he attends the magistrates, and makes oath of his last legal settlement; which deposition shall be attested and admitted as evidence of his last legal settlement in all courts of justice. (2) Ten years' residence in a parish shall give a pauper and his children a settlement, provided that he has not been chargeable to any parish during that period. (3) No person shall gain a settlement by paying taxes, by service, or by apprenticeship, unless the consent of two parish officers be indorsed on his indenture. (4) Bastards shall follow the settlement of their mothers. (5) Parishes shall be reimbursed the expenses of removing persons when they become actually chargeable. (6) The law permitting parishes to farm out their Poor to be repealed, except that poor children, above seven, may be farmed

out to be maintained by a contract till seventeen. (7) No publican shall be a churchwarden or parish officer. (8) Overseers to report twice yearly to two justices as to the stock and tools for setting the Poor to work, and of materials manufactured, and shall register in a book the names of all poor persons receiving relief. (9) Two justices may order overseers to bind out poor children to persons residing in the place of their legal settlement. In order to relieve agricultural labourers, who are often, during the winter, out of employment, the vestry in every parish is empowered, by notice affixed to the church door, to settle a rate of wages to be paid to labourers out of employ, from the 30th November to the 28th February; and to distribute and send them round in rotation to the parishioners, proportionally as they pay to the rates; to be paid by the persons employing them two-thirds of the wages so settled, and one-third by the parish-officers out of the rates; and if any parishioner refuses to pay his proportion, the justices may levy treble the amount by distress and sale of his goods and chattels.

The Rev. Mr. Harveis, in a pamphlet published in 1788, proposed that every man or woman who works for hire and earns 3*s.* or more a week, shall contribute one-twenty-fourth to one-twenty-sixth part to a friendly society, and that every occupier of lands and tenements, instead of their present assessment should pay one-twentieth of the rent of their lands to the same fund. Employers are to be responsible for the subscriptions of their labourers. Harvest men, who have their board, and menial servants, to pay one-eighteenth part of their wages. This contribution, which is in effect a tax, offers a benefit to the lazy, at a less price than the industrious. Diverting the whole of the Poor's rate at once, as the author proposes, would be productive of great confusion and distress.

In 1790, justices of the peace were empowered to visit the workhouses within their jurisdiction, to

examine, and certify the state of the houses of the Poor therein, and of their food, clothing and bedding to the next quarter sessions, to summon the master of the workhouses to appear at the sessions to answer complaints made against them ; also, the justices, at quarter sessions, were authorized to make such orders and regulations, for the removing of any cause or complaint, as they should think proper. The same Act (30 Geo. III. c. 49) also empowers justices, if, upon such visitation, they find the poor in the workhouse afflicted with any contagious or infectious disease, to make such order as they think proper for immediately procuring medical or other assistance, or providing them with proper food, or for separating and removing such Poor as are afflicted with the infectious disease. This concludes the historical survey, and leads the writer to assert that " not only the aggregate body of the nation must have advanced to wealth and independence, but that the portion of the community which consists of those who are emphatically called the *labouring classes*, must have considerably bettered its condition in the course of the present (eighteenth) century."

BOOK II

OF NATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE POOR: OF THE ENGLISH POOR LAW SYSTEM: OF THE DIET, DRESS, FUEL AND HABITATION OF THE LABOURING CLASSES IN GREAT BRITAIN

CHAPTER I

THAT it is the duty of every man, according to his abilities and opportunities, to relieve his fellow creatures in distress, will no doubt be readily and generally admitted. It is the never-failing theme of the moralist and the Divine, and the politician is no less persuaded that the *Infant Poor* should be relieved from beggary and want, the *Sick Poor* restored to health, and that a bare subsistence for the *Aged Poor* is no more than the fair right of those, who have spent their best days, and exhausted their strength, in the service of the public.

It is, however, obvious that these persons are not the only indigent classes in the community. They comprise all who cannot work, but there are many industrious who are entitled to employment, and more idle, who not less loudly call for compulsion to force them to labour. Of the means, however, of attaining this very desirable end, speculative writers on government have formed very different opinions. In most countries the prevailing idea is that the relief of the Poor may safely be left to the discriminating liberality of individuals, though in none is this principle fully adopted, for there are in nearly all public schools, dispensatories, hospitals, or almshouses. In England, however, the claims of the

indigent to a national provision, whatever the law may say upon the subject, are recognized by the practice consequent upon that law, to the fullest extent. The argument in favour of a national establishment for the maintenance of the Poor, rest chiefly on the following positions :

(1) That at no period in our history have the labouring classes been able to exist, without continual labour, while they are exposed to calamities, which no human foresight can avert, which may reduce them to want. (2) That they, whose capital is their labour, must rely, during any incapacity, on the assistance of others, and must either be supported by voluntary contributions, or a maintenance assigned by the Legislature. (3) That the obligation on the Rich to provide a competent subsistence for the Poor is created by the very nature of civil society, for as every man is born in the society of which his parents are citizens, he is entitled to that portion of the public wealth only which accrues to him by inheritance, and otherwise he cannot seize any animal or vegetable for his food, without invading *property*, and incurring the penalty of the law.

Dr. Woodward, Bishop of Cloyne, in his "Address to the public on the expediency of a regular place for the maintenance and government of the Poor in Ireland," asks the very pertinent question, "If the poor man's rich neighbours are not bound, in justice, to provide for him a competent maintenance, by what right did they take upon themselves to enact certain laws (for the Rich compose the legislative body in every civilized country) which compelled that man to become a member of their society ; which precluded him from any share in the land where he was born ; any use of its spontaneous fruits, or any dominion over the beasts of the field, on pain of stripes, imprisonment, or death ? How can they justify their exclusive property in the *common heritage* of mankind, unless they consent, in return, to provide for the subsistence of the Poor, who were ex-

cluded from those common rights by the laws of the Rich, to which they were never parties ? "

The only question, therefore, is whether it is better to give the Poor a legal right to maintenance, or to leave them to unconstrained charity. To adopt the latter measure it has often been contended, is not only to load the industrious and benevolent with the support of the improvident, the idle, and the worthless, but also to relieve the unfeeling and covetous of their natural obligations. It is also contended that the certainty of relief to the innocent, will inevitably lead less deserving objects into improvidence, idleness and extravagance. But to this Dr. Woodward replies by putting the case of an idle prodigal man, who in the extremity of age or sickness cries out for food or medicine and asks if anyone can avow that we should suppress every tender feeling, and suffer him to perish, from a deep and doubtful speculation whether such relief may not encourage idleness, and become, in the end, a political evil ? It may further be urged that where the Poor are not supported from a national fund, a law prohibiting a pauper, who had no other resource, from begging, would be neither wise, humane, nor practicable, and that in such a case begging would be connived at by the magistrates for the same reason that juries are induced to acquit offenders, when the punishment affixed by the law to their crime is extremely severe ; that begging, thus sanctioned, will be followed by those who beg from necessity and by impostors, who make begging a trade ; and the undeserving will often extort from the wearied hand of charity, what will be denied to unfeigned, though perhaps suspected, distress.

On the other hand, with respect to that unremitting labour which almost every political writer (whether friendly or adverse to the Poor system) insists on as necessary for the promotion of individual happiness and national prosperity, it may be questioned whether it is not very discouraging to the efforts of men in social

life, to say that whatever improvement may take place in civilization, it must be the lot of many to spend their lives, except for meal times and rest, in unceasing bodily labour. What can be more deplorable than the condition of those, whom the thirst of gain has seduced, not only into toilsome, but also into unwholesome trades? But if this is injurious for adults, how much worse must it be for children.

The objections which has been repeatedly urged against parochial Workhouses and Houses of Industry that by removing the young from their parents they destroy all domestic connections, and that, reared in crowds, the rising generation lose the spring of health in contagion and restraint, seem to be no less applicable to those places, in which great numbers of boys and girls are thronged together, at the spinning-wheels, the loom, or any other mechanical employment. But as this lies outside the scope of the present work it is most important to consider how far the public has any right to interfere in and control the education of the people, and next, admitting the right, how far it is either their duty or their interest so to interfere. On these points men of great name have differed exceedingly.

In 1765, the celebrated Dr. Brown, published his "Thoughts on Civil Liberty, Licentiousness and Faction," in which he noticed the danger that threatened the State from the circumstance that every private man being at liberty to educate his children, not only without a reverence for the laws and religion of his country, but in an absolute contempt for them. The only remedy for this great defect, he conceived to be a general and prescribed form of education, to which all members of the community should submit.

Public opinion, even whilst it is merely speculative, is by no means a thing of indifference to the public, because it naturally has a great influence on public practice, and as every government has a right to devise and pursue means to secure the continuance of its own

existence, it must also have the right by leading, though not by regulating, public opinion. These and other arguments are objected to by Dr. Priestly in his "Essay on the First Principles of Government." But no government has, or pretends to have, any absolute right to control a parent in the instruction of his child, as some writers are pleased to fancy. All they aim at is to take some care and pains to prevent any parent bringing up his children in principles and practices injurious to the general weal, and also to see—where a parent is either unwilling or unable to take proper care of his child—that the child be not lost for want of care. And thus much this Government, as well as most others, long has done, much to the comfort and benefit of the nation; and therefore it is to be hoped, thus much will it continue long to do. Wholly to neglect all culture, and all instruction, of even the poorest classes of the community, will, in all governments, produce a relaxation of principle, and a corruption of manners; and these must eventually terminate in the destruction of order, and the dissolution of government. The children of our labourers are not the less likely to become useful members of the State, in that sphere of life for which they are probably destined, from having been instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic; accomplishments, which, the paradoxical Mandeville ("Essay on Charity Schools." Ed. 1795, 179) says "are very pernicious to those whose livelihood has no dependence on those arts," and "who are forced to get their bread by their daily labour."

But if the suspicious spirit of modern Liberty views with a jealous eye the most distant idea of a government's interfering to make the education of the Poor a public concern, one cannot but wonder that it has so long endured the interference of the Legislature in another department of popular instruction, viz., the learning of a trade under a master. By the Statute of Apprenticeship (5 Eliz. c. 4) it was enacted that no person should, for the future, exercise any trade then followed

in England, without having served an apprenticeship of seven years, and that serving seven years as an apprentice to any trade should give a person an exclusive right to exercise that trade in any part of England. This Statute, however, by the subtle refinements of courts of justice (which, with views extremely laudable, have, in this instance, favoured the free exertion of liberty) been interpreted to extend only to cities and market towns; and it is held that a person may exercise as many trades as he pleases in a country village, although he has not served a seven years' apprenticeship. Of the bad effects of this law many instances might be adduced but two citations from the Statute Book may be sufficient.

By the Act passed in 1777 for the regulation of the hat industry, it was expressly declared that the Acts of Elizabeth and James which prohibited a person from making hats, unless he had served a seven years' apprenticeship, and limited the number of apprentices of a master hatter to two, had created a scarcity of journeymen and repealed the law creating it. And by the 18 Geo. III. c. 47 "the hardships brought on parish apprentices by the length of their apprenticeship" were admitted; and it was enacted that their service should continue for no longer term than till they should have attained the age of 21 years. Were corporation laws generally enforced with great vigour, they would be equally injurious to industry. In few places, however, except in London, and in the universities, are persons restricted from setting up their trades, merely because doing so might be prejudicial to corporations. A shoemaker, who had not served an apprenticeship, might exercise his industry at Bristol or Liverpool, with as little hazard of being molested by the corporation of either place, as of being disturbed by the boroughreve of Manchester, or the head constable of Birmingham. Adam Smith, indeed, asserts ("Wealth of Nations," 5th ed. i. 201) "that in many

large incorporated towns no tolerable workmen are to be found, even in some of the most necessary trades. If you would have your work tolerably executed, it must be done in the suburbs, where the workmen, having no exclusive privilege, have nothing but their character to depend on, and you must then smuggle it into the town as well as you can." It is much to be regretted that this great political writer did not produce any evidence of the truth of these asseverations. It is very doubtful if there is a single corporation in England, the exercise of whose rights does, at present, operate in this manner. The truth seems to be that corporations are themselves sensible that commerce no longer needs their protection. Were the conduct of corporations at all oppressive, more would be heard about it in political publications, and in courts of justice. Corporations, however, now seldom enter into litigation except when their *elective* franchises are concerned. It may also be thought that laws which point out particular lines of industry to those who have attained the age when they are usually deemed to be competent to manage their own affairs, are still more futile and injudicious. Such laws have existed in all ages and countries, and few writers have entered into political speculation without recommending new institutions and plausible expedients for rendering the people industrious, orderly and economical.

It seems, moreover, very problematical whether a government ever attempted directly to regulate the course of industry without producing considerable mischief. The wants implanted in us by nature and extended by civilization, are the presiding principles which direct all human efforts to useful purposes. It is, however, very properly observed by Dr. Samuel Crumpe, the author of "An Essay on the best means of providing employment for the People," that in order that any advantage may be derived from the desire of enjoying the artificial necessaries of life, and

the imitative propensities of man, by making them the means of rendering him industrious, three circumstances are materially requisite. The example to be imitated must be pretty generally diffused among a people. The object it "proposes must be considerably above those already enjoyed; and to acquire it, although labour and industry should be necessary, they should never be vain and ineffectual." It may be added that, though labour is indispensible, it is by no means consonant to the physical or moral nature of man that he should, like an ass in a mill, apply solely to bodily exertion from week's end to week's end. Nor has the state any reason to complain, if he, who can earn enough in four days to maintain him for seven, chooses to spend the remaining three in idleness and relaxation. The abuse of liberty is no reason that it should be annihilated.

Very different, however, has been the opinion of the Legislature in ancient times. The old laws for "the eschewing of idleness" and "setting the Poor on work" were framed upon the mistaken principle that, with the incitements of civilization before them, the people must be compelled to follow their own interest. Whatever may have been the benevolent views of the Legislature in passing these Acts, it is astonishing that we find so few (if any) traces in the Statute Book of an attention to another no less essential condition of human existence, repose and recreation. It is one, and not the least, of the mistaken principles on which a national provision for the Poor is supported that every individual has not only a claim, but a right, founded on the very essence of human society to the active and direct interference of the Legislature, to supply him with employment while able to work, and with maintenance when incapacitated.

It may, however, be doubted whether any right, the gratification of which seems to be impracticable, can be said to exist. A legal provision for the Poor, on the

contrary, seems to check that emulative spirit of exertion, which the want of the necessities, or the no less powerful demand for the superfluities, of life gives birth to : for it assures a man that, whether he may have been indolent, improvident, prodigal, or vicious, he shall never suffer want. It must be confessed that many able writers, who have investigated this subject, are of a very different opinion.

Mr. Howlett in his "Investigation of Mr. Pitt's Speech," denies that the Poor Laws have any tendency to destroy the motives to economy and diligence among the labouring classes. "Certainty of parochial assistance, it has often been said, removes all concern, and all anxiety about the future subsistence of each man and makes him careless of his conduct, indifferent whether he work or play." He adds : "No man in his sober senses ever adopts such reasoning." The promise of the Poor Laws, at most, can only remove the horror of perishing by famine, and somewhat alleviate the sorrows of sickness, and pangs of disease. To do this is surely generous, humane, and benevolent. But how does it incite to idleness and vice ? If I do not work, the parish will compel me. Is this more pleasing than to do this of my own accord ? Is it more agreeable to work under the scourge of the task-masters, than voluntarily to exert my utmost endeavours to provide for myself and family ? Shall I be vicious and profligate because I know that after a long course of contempt and infamy, of rags and wretchedness, of infirmity, sickness, and disease, the parish will provide me a doctor to protract the wretched remains of life ? Never did the profligate reason thus. Hurried on by the impulses of passion and the cravings of appetite, he hears not the suggestions of reason, but is plunged in the gulph of perdition before the provision of the Poor Laws, or anything of the kind, enter his head." These observations would be correct and applicable, were it the fact that the Poor Law did no more. The real case is that in every part of England

(I had almost said every parish) instances may be found of persons preferring a pension from the parish, and a life of idleness, to hard work and good wages. Instances would be given of stout able-bodied men having been desirous of obtaining, and of their having actually obtained, admission into Poor-houses, and resided there very contentedly, though the Poor in general are not so familiarized to this mode of relief as to prefer it to a more scanty parish allowance at home.

The terror, however, which Poor-houses and Work-houses create, operates more in preventing grown persons from entering them themselves, than from consigning the younger part of their family thither. It is, perhaps, not an unnatural course for a mother to abandon her child to the parish officers, who, she is assured, will provide for it (for some years at least) better than she possibly could; more particularly when the child is a bastard, and when by leaving it at the Workhouse, she can often screen her character from detection.[1]

Considered from this point of view, the Poor Law may be said to offer an encouragement to debauchery. That any permanent establishment for the relief of the Poor has a tendency to increase the number of those wanting relief might be proved from the example of places where there are ample donations distributed annually in aid of the Poor Rate. Lord Kames ("Sketches," Ed. 1788, iii. 77) gives the following examples: A London alderman named Harper in the reign of James I. or Charles I., bequeathed ten or twelve acres of meadowland in St. Andrew's, Holborn, for the benefit of the Poor in Bedford. This ground has long been covered with houses which yield from £4,000 to £5,000 yearly. That sum is laid out upon charity schools, upon defraying the expense of apprenticeships, and upon stock to young persons when they marry;

[1] Many of the parishes in Westminster allow 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* a week for children which they send to be nursed in the country. What poor woman can expend such a sum in the maintenance of her child?

an encouragement that attracts to the town of Bedford great numbers of the lower classes. That encouragement relaxes the industry of many, and adds greatly to the number of the Poor, so that in few places is the Poor Rate so high as in Bedford. An extensive common in the parish of Chaily, Sussex, is the chief cause of an extravagant assessment for the Poor, no less than nine shillings in the pound of rackrent. The town of Largo, in Fife, has a small hospital, erected many years ago by a gentleman named Wood and assigned by him to the Poor of that name. As the name is rare in that neighbourhood, access to the hospital is easy. One man in particular is kept there, whose father, grandfather, and great-grandfather enjoyed successively the same benefit.

The principal argument in favour of a Poor Rate is that it taxes a man according to his means, and compels the selfish to contribute as well as the charitable. This end, however laudable, is very imperfectly answered. It is true that it was originally intended that the tax should be laid on personal property as well as land. The practice, however, is very variable. In London stock-in-trade is rated ; in Westminster neither stock-in-trade, nor personal property. In Manchester some kinds of personal property were rated till lately, but not stock-in-trade. The rate on houses and land in 1794 produced £10,931 0*s.* 9*d.*; on personalty £728 17*s.* When a second rate was levied the same year, no attempt was made to assess personalty. The operation of the Poor Rate as a tax on landed property is no less inequitable and unjust. Although it is laid in landed parishes on the proprietor and tenant in proportion to the rent, the former is sometimes a very poor man. "Sometimes his property is mortgaged to the half, or nearly the whole, extent of its value ; yet he must pay the Poor Rate to the whole amount of his possession. At the same time, the men of monied property, who are, perhaps, the richest in the nation, and best able to afford a tax, pay little or nothing in

proportion to their wealth. In cities and boroughs the tax is more equal, being laid in proportion to the rent of the house possessed." ("McFarlan's Inquiry Concerning the Poor," pp. 195-8).

In the essential requisite, also, of a good tax, ease of payment, the Poor's rate is manifestly deficient. Arthur Young remarks ("Travels in France," i. 524-531) that taxes on land "so far as they are advanced by the tenant and drawn back when he reckons with his landlord, are easy to the latter; but they are in exactly the same proportion, burdensome to the tenant, who has to advance out of his own pocket another man's tax which is palpably unjust. At the same time, also, by demanding the tax from the landlord, who farms his own estate, his ease is never consulted; he has to pay the tax, not because he has sold his produce, for he must pay, though his land should not produce a single farthing; not because he buys and therefore can afford it, but merely because he possesses, which by no means proves an ability to pay at all." It seems even doubtful whether a legal establishment for the Poor, fenced as it is with severe penalties against beggars and vagabonds, will ever considerably lessen the practice, though it may in some degree exclude the necessity of vagrancy and mendicity. It does not appear from the Statistical Account of Scotland (a country in which there is no general establishment for the relief of the Poor) that mendicants there are more numerous, more dissolute, or more disorderly than in England. The certainty of a regular maintenance will not prevent beggars from being very numerous, even in an industrious and opulent country. Upon the whole, therefore, there seem to be just grounds for concluding that the sum of good to be expected from the establishment of a compulsory maintenance for the Poor, will be far outbalanced by the sum of evil which it will inevitably create; that the certainty of a legal provision weakens the principles of natural affection, and destroys one

of the strongest ties of society by rendering the exercise of domestic and social duties less necessary; that a Poor's Tax will unavoidably be burdensome and unequal; and that the distribution of a large public fund, confided as it must be to officers who cannot but be invested with discretionary powers, will ever be the pregnant source of partiality and peculation.

These observations apply chiefly to a national provision for the relief of those who from infancy, old age or sickness, are unable to acquire the necessaries of life. It is seldom, however, that public charity is confined to this object. It generally aims at supplying the able with employment, as well as the impotent with subsistence. With regard to this proposal, it is merely necessary to point out that it is impossible to provide work in any species of employment without in some degree injuring those already engaged in similar undertakings. If a parish workhouse undertakes the manufacture of mops, ropes, etc., those who subsisted by this trade are sure to be sufferers. Whether mops are made by private manufacturers or parish children, no more will be sold than the public have occasion for. To this may be added the remarks of Dr. McFarlan: "In general it hath been found that no work carried on by any collective body of men has ever succeeded so well as that carried on by individuals, who, knowing that they must reap all the profit, or suffer all the loss, are interested to bestow a faithful attention to every part of the business." It must be obvious, however, that most of the preceding observations apply only to a country where no national provision for the Poor exists. It is a very different question what steps are to be pursued with respect to a tried establishment which (whatever its merits or demerits may be) has by long and uninterrupted practice assimilated itself to our habits and mode of life. Faulty and defective as our Poor system may be, in its original construction, and in its modern ramifications, he must be a bold and

rash political projector who should propose to level it to the ground, and it seems to be very generally agreed that a modification only of those laws can be attempted, and not a total repeal of them. Something appears necessary to be done for the benefit of the Poor themselves. John Vancouver ("An Enquiry into the Causes and Production of Poverty," etc., pp. 45-63) declares that "a proportion of the daily earnings of the employed, though perhaps not formally, was virtually surrendered to their employers, if not before yet certainly at the period when power was first given to the justices to lay a general assessment. To this property so surrendered it is the *duty* of the employed immediately to resort, when under any circumstances of inability or distress. If a law pass, obliging A to support B, when incapable of labour, whom before he only paid for labouring, little doubt can reasonably be entertained that the power which A holds will soon obtain from B, or reduction in wages, or further services (the same thing) as an indemnity for the future expense, which the Law eventually may have imposed on him, A. He puts the case thus : A agrees to work ten hours each day for B at 20*d.* per day ; B consents to employ A on condition that he shall receive 18*d.* a day only, and allow the other 2*d.* to remain in B's hands as an indemnification for undertaking to support him and his family in case of inability from age or sickness to work any longer. Now if circumstances never arise which render A incapable of work, B is wholly the gainer, and though the moment he is incapable of work A has the right to resort to B for his subsistence, and reserve his own property whatever it may be entire, yet generally he does not ask for a relief as long as this property lasts, and so for such a period B is exonerated."

It is doubtful, however, whether this is the case with the great mass of employers and employed in England. The market price of any commodity, whether it be labour or its substantial produce, does not depend on

the avarice, whim or caprice of any individual, but on the general demand and supply, neither of which can be affected by him in any very sensible degree. The demand for country labour is greater at hay time and harvest than during the rest of the year, and wages of agricultural labour rise accordingly. In time of war when forty or fifty thousand sailors are forced from the Merchant Service into the Navy, the wages of sailors in the Merchant Service rise. Were this supposed combination of employers exerted in consequence of the Poor Law, we should expect to find the rate of wages higher in those countries where no Poor Law exists. But the reward of labour in England is more liberal than either Scotland or Ireland. It may be asserted that at no period before the passing of the 43 Elizabeth could the labouring classes acquire such a portion of the necessaries and conveniences of life by a day's work, as they could before the late unparalleled advance in the price of the necessaries of life. Mr. Vancouver indeed says it is most certain that there was a time when labour was protected against that description of poverty which "hath been considered of moral production," by which presumably he means poverty occasioned by accident, sickness or want of employment. It is, however, to be regretted that he has not been able to point out the era of our history when the labouring classes found, in their daily earnings, an adequate resource against the unforeseen calamities of occasional incapacity.

CHAPTER II

I MOST sincerely agree with those who regret that the labourer does not get more for his shilling than is usually the case; the misfortune, however, does not arise from (what is so often most unjustly reprobated) his being obliged to purchase the few articles he has occasion for, from petty retail shops, but because either through ignorance, custom or prejudice, he adheres to ancient improvident systems in dress, diet, and in other branches of private expenditure. Instead of the ill-grounded complaints, which have so often been reiterated by writers on the Poor, that the wages of industry are in general too inadequate to provide the labourers with those comforts and conveniences which are befitting his station in the community, they would better serve the cause of the industrious peasant and manufacturer by pointing out the best means of reducing their expenses, without diminishing their comforts. The greater part of the inmates of Workhouses consists of persons who have followed those occupations in which the highest wages are given. The Poor-houses in the vicinity of such districts are full of paupers of this description; while in the more remote parts of the kingdom agricultural labourers are much seldomer thrown on the parish than manufacturers.

There seems to be just reason to conclude that the miseries of the labouring Poor arose, less from the scantiness of their income (however much the philanthropist might wish it to be increased) than from their own improvidence and unthriftiness; since it is the fact, and I trust will be demonstrated in a subsequent part of this work, that in many parts of the kingdom, where the earnings of industry are moderate, the con-

dition of the labourers is more comfortable than in other districts where wages are exorbitant. It must strike every one who has at all investigated the subject of diet, that there is not only a remarkable difference in the proportion of earnings appropriated to the purchase of subsistence by labourers in the North and South of England, but that their mode of preparing their food is no less dissimilar. In the South of England the poorest labourers are habituated to the unvarying meal of dry bread and cheese from week's end to week's end; and in those families whose finances do not allow them the indulgence of malt liquor, the deleterious produce of China, constitutes their most usual beverage. If a labourer is rich enough to afford himself meat once a week, he commonly roasts it, or if he lives near a baker's he bakes it, and if he boils his meat he never thinks of making it into a soup, which would be as nourishing and more palatable. In the North of England, Scotland and Wales the poorest labourers, however, regale themselves with a variety of dishes unknown in the South. To begin with: *hasty pudding*, which is made of oatmeal, water and salt, about 13oz. of meal to a quart of water, which is sufficient for a meal for two labourers. It is eaten with a little milk or beer poured upon it, or with a little cold butter put into the middle, or with a little treacle. A good meal for one person, supposing the price of oats to be 20*s.* the quarter, will not exceed 1*d.* *Crowdie* is not so generally used as hasty pudding, though it is a very common dish in the North among labourers of all descriptions, particularly miners. It is made with boiling water and oatmeal in much the same proportions as in hasty pudding, and it is eaten with milk or butter. Another sort is made by pouring boiling water on oatmeal; after stirring, a piece of fat is taken from the broth and put on the crowdie instead of butter or milk. This is the kind which is most in use in the North of England.

Furmenty or barley milk as made in the North is barley with the husks taken off, boiled in water nearly two hours, and mixed with skimmed milk. Sometimes a little sugar is added, and it is generally eaten in Cumberland with barley bread. Barley is also dressed by the peasants in Scotland, and in the North of England, for broth, or barley milk. In the Northern counties oatmeal is made by grinding, and the refuse which remains, after the meal has been sifted and is similar to the bran of wheat, consists chiefly of husks, and is called *seeds*. It is used for *sowens* or flummery, which is almost solid and perfectly smooth, very like what in England is called bla-mange. It is eaten with milk, and though only occasionally used in the North of England and in many parts of Scotland, particularly on the North-East coast, it constitutes the invariable dinner of the labourer. *Pease-kail* is made by boiling pease till they are soft ; the water is then poured from them and milk is added. Sometimes pease are put into broth and boiled down into a sort of soup. Neither of these dishes, however, is very generally used, nor much to be commended.

Potatoes are not only particularly good in the North of England, but used in various ways. They are sometimes roasted or boiled and eaten with butter, as in the South, but are more commonly boiled (sometimes with the skin on, and sometimes with it taken off), chopped into small pieces and eaten with butter (either cold or melted) or bacon fried ; but the principal way in which they are used by labourers' families in the North is by being peeled or rather scraped raw, chopped and boiled together with a small quantity of meat cut into very small pieces. The whole of this mixture is then formed into a hash, with pepper, salt, onions, etc., which when used by sailors is known as *lobscouse*. The very general use which is now made of potatoes in these kingdoms as food for man is a convincing proof that the prejudices of a nation with regard to diet,

however deeply rooted, are by no means unconquerable. Within the present (18th) century, potatoes seem to have been considered as fit for only the poorest classes of the community, but from the following instances the progress which various districts have made in the cultivation of this valuable root, it seems probable that in a very few years the consumption of potatoes in this kingdom will be almost as general and universal as that of corn. 1, In the central Highlands of Scotland potatoes are become the principal food of the people; before their introduction famines were frequent in the Highlands; 2, In the county of Forfar they afford a supply of food for the Poor in July, before the corn harvest comes in; 3, In the East Lothian they constitute nearly one-third of the food of the labouring people from the first of August to the end of May; 4, In Perthshire it is said to have done more to prevent emigration than any device whatsoever; 5, Had it not been in general use in Banff in 1783, many of the inhabitants would probably have perished for want of food; 6, It is a common practice in Devonshire to make bread of potatoes, mixed with flour; 7, In Cardiganshire potatoes with barley bread form the chief sustenance of the Poor; 8, It is no uncommon thing in Somerset for a family, consisting of a father, mother, and five or six children, to consume twenty sacks per year, 240lbs. the sack, or 20lbs. per head per week, allowing twelve weeks' cessation from this food. Indeed, the children nearly subsist on it, and the deprivation thereof would bring the whole family to the parish.

There are many different sorts of bread used in the North of England. In Cumberland it is generally made of barley and baked in unleavened cakes, of about half an inch thick, and twelve inches in diameter, but more commonly leavened and made into loaves of about 12lbs. each. This bread will keep good four or five weeks in winter, and two or three in summer, and is almost the only bread used by the peasantry

of that county. Though somewhat sour, and of a darkish hue, it is considered extremely nutritious by those accustomed to it. Mr. Ray, in his collection of North Country words, mention five different sorts of oaten bread: 1, *Thar-cakes* (called in Cumberland hard-cakes) which are the same as bannocks; 2, *Clap-bread*, thin hard cakes, in Cumberland frequently made of barley meal; it is unleavened and baked on a "girdle" over a fire; a labourer in Westmorland will eat 16lbs. of meal made into bread in a fortnight, at a cost of about 1*s.* per week; 3, *Kitcheness bread*, described as thin oat cakes made of thin batter; 4, *Riddle cakes*, said to be thick sour cakes, and identical (in name at least) with the bread called in Wales *bara-greiddell*, from its being baked on a girdle or thin iron plate; 5, *Hand-hoven bread*, now more commonly called *hoven bread*, is leavened bread made into cakes; 6, *Jannock* oaten bread, made up in loaves; neither this kind of bread nor its name appear to be common at present. *Bannocks*, which are the common bread in Scotland, are thick cakes of unleavened bread, made only of meal and water. They are generally made of oatmeal and water, but sometimes of barley meal, or pease meal, and sometimes of oatmeal with milk, butter (or cream), eggs and carraway seed.

The principal advantage which the labourers in the North of England possess over their countrymen in the South consists in the great variety of cheap and savoury soups, which the use of barley and barley bread affords them an opportunity of making. The cheapness of fuel is, perhaps, another reason why the meals of the Northern peasant are so much diversified, and his table so often supplied with hot dishes. One of the usual soups made by labourers' families in Northumberland and Cumberland consists of meat, oatmeal, barley, and potherbs such as onions, chives, parsley, thyme, etc., in the following proportions: Beef or mutton, 1lb.; water, 6qts.; barley, 3oz.; after the

liquor is reduced to about 3qts. by boiling; 1oz. of oatmeal, previously mixed with a little water, and a handful of herbs are added. A pint or a pint and a half make a good supper. The day the broth is made the dinner usually is broth, with part of the meat, bread and potatoes chopped and boiled. The supper is broth and bread; the next day dinner is cold meat from the broth, warm potatoes, broth and bread, the supper bread and broth warmed up but not boiled again. The broth will keep three days if kept cool.

Boiled milk, another very common dish in the North is milk boiled with oatmeal, one handful of meal to three pints of milk. The meal is put into the pot whilst the milk is boiling, and is soon after taken off the fire and eaten with barley bread for breakfast or supper. There is a prejudice against rye bread in the South of England, though in several parts of the kingdom rye and wheat are considered an excellent species of bread. "In Nottinghamshire (Annals of Agriculture XXV., 580) opulent farmers consume one-third wheat, one-third rye, and one-third barley; but their labourers do not relish it, and have lost their *rye teeth*, as they express it." It must be confessed that bread into which rye enters in any considerable proportion can seldom be made as pleasant and palatable as mixtures of other sorts of grain. The principal consumption of barley in the South of England is in malt liquor, but it may be doubted whether a given quantity of barley and water made into soup does not contain more nourishment than the same quantity converted into beer. It is certain that a person might subsist entirely on barley broth, but it is not probable that porter alone would long support a person in good health. It is not to be expected that milk should ever form a considerable part of the diet of labourers in the South of England, until the practice of keeping cows become more general among cottagers than it is at present. In the vicinity of large towns the value of grass land

is much too high to enable labourers to rent it to advantage; and in other districts where there is hardly anything but arable land, and the maintenance of a cow depends on straw, turnips, cabbages, or purchased hay, the system of cow-keeping is much too operose for a labourer to engage in. A garden will prove of infinite benefit to a labourer in almost any situation, but more especially in arable countries, where he would find it difficult to procure sufficient pasture to maintain a cow both in summer and winter, and where, though he might be able to cultivate a few acres of arable land for winter food for his cow, he would not always be able to procure hay, for summer food, from the farmers. Even in London, where milk is extremely dear ($3\frac{1}{2}d.$ the quart), poor householders might occasionally use it to considerable advantage. A labouring man who thinks he cannot afford milk and therefore obliges his family to drink their tea in a very crude state, by way of economy buys himself a pound of fat bacon (at 10*d.* or 1*s.* the pound) for dinner. This creates such a thirst that he is fain to allay it with no inconsiderable quantity of porter. As for salt fish, it is going very generally into disuse, and is little eaten except on particular occasions. The aversion to broths and soups composed of barley meal or oatmeal is in many parts of the South almost insuperable. Instances occurred during last winter (1794) when the Poor were extremely distressed by the high price of provisions; of their rejecting soup which was served at a gentleman's table. Their common outcry was: "This is washy stuff that affords no nourishment; we will not be fed on meal and chopped potatoes, like hogs." It is true that a diet, consisting entirely of liquids, would neither gratify the palate nor enable the body to support violent fatigue. But a South Country labourer probably takes more liquid into his stomach than the Cumberland or Yorkshire man. Exclusive of beer, when he can afford it, and spirits, the quantity of water, which

with tea forms a beverage which is seldom qualified with milk or sugar, poured down the throats of a labourer's family is astounding. Any person who will give himself the trouble of stepping into the cottages of Middlesex and Surrey at meal times, will find that in poor families tea is not only the usual beverage, in the morning and evening, but is generally drunk in large quantities even at dinner.

It is hardly possible to form a guess at the amount of beer annually consumed in Great Britain, as a very considerable quantity is brewed at home which is exempted from duty, and of course neither its quality nor quantity can be ascertained, but it appears from a pamphlet, published in 1794, entitled "Observations and Facts relative to Public Houses," that the number of barrels of porter, ale, and amber, brewed in London in 1794, was 1,397,355 barrels or 48,907,425 gallons. of this quantity 65,208 barrels are supposed to be exported, and 200,000 barrels are sent for country consumption, leaving for the consumption of London and its environs 1,132,147 barrels of 35 gallons each, or 39,625,145 gallons. Purchased liquor is an article of expenditure particularly prevalent in the South, and there is hardly a labouring man who does not think it necessary to indulge himself every day in a certain quantity of malt liquor. In cyder counties the peasantry are equally liberal to themselves. This is not the case in the North, where besides water the general drink of the labouring classes is whey or milk, or rather milk and water, or at best very meagre small beer. In parishes of equal proportion in the North and South there are three or four ale-houses in the latter for one in the former. In one parish in Surrey there are 16 ale-houses for a population of 1671, men, women and children. The monthly takings of one of them are £20, and it has been calculated, therefore, that the sum of £3,840 is annually spent on strong drink there.

The difficulty of introducing any species of food

which requires much cooking into the South of England arises in a great measure from the scarcity and high price of fuel. Even the labourer's dinner of hot meat on a Sunday is generally dressed at the baker's, and his meals during the rest of the week consist almost wholly of bread purchased from the same quarter. It may, however, be doubted whether the same quantity of fuel which is required to boil a tea kettle twice a day is not more than sufficient to dress a potato soup. Count Rumford truly observes that "their fireplaces, are, in general, constructed upon the most wretched principles," and that "the fuel they consume in them not infrequently renders them really colder and more uncomfortable by causing strong currents of cold air to flow from all the doors and windows to the chimney." Balls of small coal, mixed with clay, are very much used all over South Wales, particularly in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen. They are formed about the bigness of a man's fist, great in the middle and verging smaller towards the end. They are generally made up and put upon the fire quite wet, in the form of a pyramid; and, when thoroughly lighted, make a most brilliant appearance. One of these fires, if made up with skill, will last ten or twelve hours.

The diversity is not greater between the labourers in the North and South of England, with respect to the manner in which their food is prepared than with regard to the modes they adopt of supplying themselves with clothing. In the Midland and Southern counties, the labourer in general purchases a very considerable portion, if not the whole, of his clothes from the shopkeeper. In the vicinity of the metropolis, working people seldom buy new clothes; they content themselves with a cast-off coat, which may be usually purchased for about 5*s*., and second-hand waistcoats and breeches. Their wives seldom make up any article of dress, except making and mending clothes for the children. In the North, on the contrary, almost every

article of dress worn by farmers, mechanics and labourers, is manufactured at home, shoes and hats excepted—that is, the linen thread is spun from the lint, and the yarn from the wool, and sent to the weavers and dyers, so that almost every family has its web of linen cloth annually, and often one of woollen also, which is either dyed for coats or made into flannel etc. Sometimes black and white wool are mixed, and the cloth which is made from them receives no dye; it is provincially called *kelt*. There are, however, many labourers so poor that they cannot even afford to purchase the raw material necessary to spin thread or yarn at home, as it is some time before a home manufacture can be rendered fit for use. It is generally acknowledged that articles of clothing can be purchased in the shops at a much lower price than those who made them at home can afford to sell them for, but that in the wearing those manufactured by private families are very superior both in warmth and durability.

Some years ago clogs were introduced into the county of Dumfries from Cumberland, and are now very generally used all over that part of the country, in place of coarse and strong shoes. "Whether considered with respect to the price or utility, they are certainly (as the author of this account in the Statistical Abstract of Scotland, XIII. 262 observes) preferable to shoes. They keep the feet remarkably warm and comfortable, and entirely exclude all damp, and thence are thought to contribute highly to the healthiness of the labouring part of the community."

The following account of the prices of a few home-made articles in Cumberland will, I trust, prove not unacceptable to the reader. The usual price of a hat worn by labourers is about 2*s*. 6*d*.; a coat purchased (4 yds.) costs about 2*s*. 6*d*. a yard; a waistcoat takes a yard and a half; a pair of leather breeches costs 3*s*. 6*d*.; labourers sometimes wear breeches of flannel or coloured cloth; a tailor charges 5*s*. for making a

whole suit; a linen shirt takes 3¼yds. at 17*d.* a yard: this is strong and wears well; about 11oz. of wool at 8*d.* the lb. will make a pair of stockings: they are almost invariably spun and knit at home; women's dress generally consists of a black stuff hat, of the price of 1*s.* 8*d.*; a linen bedgown (stamped with blue), mostly of the home manufacture: this usually costs in the shops about 5*s.* 6*d.*; a collar or linen neck cloth, price about 1*s.* 6*d.*; two petticoats of flannel, the upper one dyed blue, value of the two about 11*s.* 6*d.*; coarse woollen stockings, home manufacture, value about 1*s.* 8*d.*; linen shirt, home manufacture, 2½yds., at 1*s.* 5*d.* the yd; women generally wear stays or rather boddices of various prices; their gowns are sometimes made of woollen stuff, 6yds. at 1*s.* 6*d.* the yd.; the women, however, generally wear black silk hats and cotton gowns on Sundays and holidays. The following are the prices of clothes as sold in a slop-shop in the neighbourhood of London: Men—A good foul-weather coat (will last very well two years), 13*s.* 0*d.*; a common waistcoat, 6*s.* 6*d.*; a pair of stout breeches (one year), 3*s.* 9*d.*; stockings, the pair, 1*s.* 10*d.*; a dowlas shirt, 4*s.* 6*d.*; a pair of strong shoes, 7*s.* 0*d.*; a hat (will last three years), 2*s.* 6*d.* Women—A common stuff gown, 6*s.* 6*d.*; Lindsey-woolsey petticoat, 4*s.* 6*d.*; a shift, 3*s.* 8*d.*; a pair of shoes, 3*s.* 9*d.*; coarse apron, 1*s.* 0*d.*; check apron, 2*s.*; a pair of stockings, 1*s.* 6*d.*; a hat, the cheapest sort (will last two years), 1*s.* 8*d.*; coloured neck-handkerchief, 1*s.* 0*d.*; a common cap, 10*d.*; cheapest kind of cloak (will last two years), 4*s.* 6*d.*; pair of stays, (will last six years), 6*s.* 0*d.* In the Highlands of Scotland every peasant makes his own shoes, of leather of his own tanning. It is to be lamented that, after two or three Highland cottagers have joined together in purchasing and dressing a hide, one of them should be often obliged to lose one or two days' work, besides tear and wear of clothes in going 20 or 30 miles to inform an excise officer of it, and pay

him the stated duty ; or run the risk of being thrown into gaol and severely fined besides forfeiting the hide. No clogs are used in the North of Scotland. In a country where there is so much walking up and down hill, they would not answer.

Few regular mechanics, of any kind, are employed by the labouring classes in the Highlands. Every man there is Jack-of-all-trades, and many a shepherd and cotter, with his wife and children, appear at kirk and market, neat, tidy and even fine, in clothes which have been touched by no hand but their own, since they were shorn from the sheep and sown in the flax-fields, except that the man has given 1*s.* 6*d.* (once in about three years) for his bonnet, and about a shilling to a tailor for making his coat.

In consequence of the very great price of bread-corn during the whole of 1794, the distresses of the Poor were unusually great, and the sums expended on their relief beyond all former example. If, however, we except the late period of scarcity (which was such as had not occurred for near a century before) it is believed that no period during the present reign (George III.) can be adduced in which the condition of day labourers was not much more comfortable than that of the same class of people in what are often called the "good old times" of former reigns. The following minutes, which are the result of enquiries made in January, 1795, will afford some information on that subject :

Bedfordshire, N.W. Extremity.—In the neighbourhood of Harrold day-labourers receive 1*s* 2*d.* a day, besides a liberal allowance of small beer. Two guineas were given for the last harvest. The women, who are mostly lace-makers, can, if expert in this business, maintain themselves, even in the present dear times. Ordinary lace makers earn 6*s.* a week, and boys and girls from 3*s.* to 4*s.* Bacon is 10*d.* the lb., candles 9*d.* the lb , cheese 6*d* the lb., wheat 12*s.*,

and barley about 4*s.* 9*d.* the bushel. The rent of cottages is from £1 to £1 10*s.* per annum. Parish allowances in this county are liberal. To a man and his wife and four children, 11*s.* a week are sometimes allowed.

CUMBERLAND, Dalston Parish.—Constant wages in harvest are 1*s.* 6*d.* the day; occasional wages 2*s.* High wages are supposed to be owing to a cotton factory. Two friendly societies. Neighbourhood of Cockermouth.—Common wages 1*s.* 8*d.* the day. In harvest 2*s.* No friendly society. Regular employment not always to be had in winter. In the neighbourhood of Carlisle, 50 years ago, reapers received 4*d.* a day and diet, or 6*d.* a day and dinner. Common labourers in husbandry, 60 years ago, were paid 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* a week, and board; they now receive 10*d.* and 1*s.* a day, and diet. A farmer's maidservant, 60 years ago, was paid from 40 to 50*s.* a year, with diet; a man servant from £4 to £6 a year, with diet. He was usually hired by the half year. At present maid servants, with farmers, receive from £6 to £8 a year, with diet; and men servants from £15 to £20 a year, with diet. Masons, 50 years ago, had in winter 6*d.* a day and board, and 1*s.* without board; in summer 8*d.* a day and board, and 1*s.* 2*d.* without board. At present (1795) they receive 1*s.* 4*d.* a day with board, and from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day without board. Wages of carpenters, 50 years ago, were 1*d.* a day less than those of masons; they are now 2*d.* a day less. Spinners of lint for the manufacturers have hardly experienced any fluctuations in their wages during the last 30 years: their price for spinning a hank has continued from 4*d.* to 5*d.* An old man, of great credibility, and good memory, in a village a few miles to the east of Carlisle, says that 60 years ago the common daily wages of labourers in husbandry, from Martinmas to Christmas, were 3*d.* a day and victuals, and 4*d.* with victuals in the summer; that reaping was 6*d.* the day, and a dinner,

or 4d. and the day's diet. Women about 70 years ago, he says, earned *2d.* a day and board, for weeding, spinning wool, spreading peats, " scaling " (i.e., spreading) manure, etc., and it was rare that a woman hired by the half-year, had more than 20*s.* for that period. 70 or 80 years ago, he says, butter was *2d.* the lb. (or at that rate, for neither butter nor butcher's meat were weighed, nor milk measured, barley 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* the Carlisle bushel (three Winchester bushels), oats 2*s.* ditto, rye 5*s.* ditto, wheat from 7*s.* to 8*s.* ditto. Mutton was then sold at Carlisle by the quarter, and a quarter, which would now cost 3*s.*, sold then for 1*s.*, and a fat calf, three weeks or a month old, from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* Agricultural wages have risen very slowly, till of late years; men's work in reaping, threshing, etc., did not exceed 6*d.* a day and board till within the last 30 years, when they rose to 8*d.* and continued at that rate till about four years ago, when 10d. was given by some farmers, and last year 1*s.* was very generally allowed.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE. — In the neighbourhood of Gloucester. Labour by the piece, 1*s.* 6*d.* the day; common labour, 1*s.* and liquor, and generally two meals a week. Bread and water almost the only diet of labourers' wives and children. Butter from 10*d.* to 16*d.* the lb.; little milk to be had, owing to the great demand for veal; bacon (alive), 10*s.* the score; wheat, which in 1789 was, on the average, about 6*s.* 6*d.* the bushel, is now 12*s.*; cheese, 40*s.* the cwt.; labourers' shoes, 7*s.* 6*d.* the pair. In the neighbourhood of Bristol common wages, 30 years ago, were 6s. the week, now they are 9*s.*

HERTFORDSHIRE. At Cheshunt.—40 years ago day labourers received 6*s.* a week, and in some instances but not universally beer was allowed them. House servants in gentlemen's families received from £4 to £6 a year. At that period wheaten bread was usually 6½*d.* the quartern loaf; butter, 6½*d.*; meat, 3½*d.* or

4*d.* the lb.; cheese, 3½*d.*; candles, 6½*d.* the lb.; soap, £2 12*s.* the cwt. At that period harvest wages were £2 for the month, and diet; now £3 15*s.* are given for the harvest month, with ale and beer; but labourers find themselves in meat. The following particulars are extracted from a farmer's book relative to wages at Sheep-hall, 1783: A day labourer received by the week 8*s.*; by the day from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*; a thresher by the day, 1*s.* 6*d*; a mower by the day, 1*s.* 6*d.*; washing and shearing 8 sheep, 1*s.* 8*d.*; a woman raking clover one day, 10½*d.* 1784: Day labourers, the same as last year; threshing barley the quarter, 1*s.* 3*d.* and beer 2*d.*; a woman for picking stones the day, 6*d.*; labourers, by the week, 8*s.* and beer 8*d.*; thatcher, the day, 1*s.* 6*d.*; hoeing turnips, the acre, 4*s.*; labourer, one month in harvest, £1 19*s.* 0*d.*; girls, hay makers, the day, 4*d.* 1785: Plough boy, half a year, £1 10*s.* 0*d.*; threshing barley, the quarter (Jan.) 1*s.* 3*d.* and beer 2*d.*; binding a load of hay 1*s.* 6*d.*; a pair of hedging gloves, 8*d*; mowing, the acre, 1*s* 9*d.*; ditto, 2*s.*; boy watching birds, the day, 4*d.*; barley, the quarter, threshing (Dec.), 1*s.* 4*d.* 1786: Barley, the quarter, threshing, 1*s.* 2*d.* and beer 2*d.* 1787, 1788: Much the same as the preceding years. 1789: Threshing, the load (5 bushels), 1*s.* 3*d.* and beer 2*d.*; woman weeding, the day, 6*d.*; labourer in harvest, one day, 2*s.* 6*d.*; labourer, one month in harvest, £3 10*s.* 0*d.*; labourer, by the week, 8*s.* 1796: Day labourers have now, the day, 1*s.* 6*d.*

HUNTINGDONSHIRE. Buckden.—Shepherds, on an average, receive 6*s.* a week for ordinary wages; on an average throughout the year, their wages amount to more than 7*s.* a week; other labourers receive, for ordinary work, more than 7*s.* a week; and full 8*s.* 6*d.* on the average of the whole year. Harvest wages are from £2 to £2 12*s.* 6*d.* with perquisites, which amount to 5*s.* or 10*s.* more. In the present winter (1795) labourers have easily obtained work; last winter it

was seldom to be procured. Wheat is 12*s.*, barley 5*s.*, potatoes 2*s.* the bushel. The price is nearly doubled since 1792, for in that year the price of these articles was, respectively, 6*s.* 8*d.*, 3*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.* the bushel. Bacon, which was then 7½*d.*, is now 9½*d.* the lb.; meat, which was 4*d.*, is now 5½*d.* and 6*d.*; coal is from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* the bushel.

LEICESTERSHIRE. Neighbourhood of Mount Sorrel.—Common wages are 10*s.* 6*d.*, 9*s.*, and 8*s.* a week, without diet; some labourers are allowed 6*s.* a week and maintenance. In harvest, wages without diet are from 14*s.* to £1 1*s.* a week, and with diet 8*s.* a week; constant work in winter. Friendly societies are numerous. Most of the Poor have little gardens, in which they chiefly cultivate potatoes. Gardens are found to be great incitements to industry, and accordingly, in some parishes, the Poor have 4 or 5 acres each assigned them for a garden, at a very moderate rent. This supplies them with cheese, butter and milk, at an easy rent. Kegworth.—Common wages from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* the day; harvest wages about 2*s.* 6*d.* the day. In the stocking weaving line, a good workman may earn from 14*s.* to £1 a week. Labourers in general seem comfortable. There are two friendly societies here for males and one for females.

LINCOLNSHIRE. Eastern Part of Lindsey.—Common wages, 2*s.* a day, at a medium throughout the year; in harvest, 3*s.* 6*d.* the day. Work can generally be had in winter if the weather is tolerably mild. In hard frosts, labourers are generally obliged to apply to their parishes. In summer they frequently work by the piece, when they can earn by mowing 2*s.* 9*d.*, 3*s.*, and 3*s.* 6*d.* the acre; by reaping, 9*s.*, 10*s.*, and even 12*s.* the acre. It is not uncommon for an industrious man to earn in this way from 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* the day; and even now, in winter, when ditchers work by the measure, they frequently earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* the day. The wages of labourers near Spilsby,

Alford, and upon the Wolds, are throughout the year considerably lower than those given in the Marsh. Many labourers have their rents paid by the parish; others have a cow or pig kept for them, and some are supplied with coals by the parish. In many parts of this district, sods or turf, which cost 5*s.* the 1,000, are the usual fuel consumed by labourers. 5,000 or 6,000 are supposed to be equal to a chaldron of coals. Wheat cost, in 1792 (taking the average of January, June, August and November) 5*s.* 1*d.*; in 1793, 6*s.* 2*d.*; in 1794, 6*s.* 3*d.*; and in 1795, 8*s.* 10½*d.* the bushel. In the same periods respectively, barley cost 2*s.* 11½*d.*, 4*s.* 1*d.*, 4*s.* 1*d.*, and 5*s.* the bushel; rye, 3*s.* 10½*d.*, 5*s.* 2*d.*, 5*s.* 0½*d.*, and 6*s.* 5½*d.*; coals, £1 6*s.*, £1 10*s.* 6*d.*, £1 9*s.* 6*d.*, and £1 12*s.* 6*d.* the chaldron (including carriage, 3*s.* 6*d.* the chaldron). Since 1792, pork for salting has risen from 5*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* the stone of 14lbs.; potatoes, from 1*s.* to 2*s.* the bushel; and meat from 3*d.* to 5½*d.* the lb. Isle of Axholme.—Common wages, 1*s.* 6*d.* the day; harvest wages, 2*s.* 6*d.* Poor's Rate in some parishes has nearly doubled since 1790, without reckoning the rate for raising men for the Navy last year (1794), which in some places was 8*d.* in the pound. Whether labourers can obtain employment in the winter depends on the quantity and quality of hemp and flax, of which there is a great deal cultivated in this part of the county. Wheat in 1792 cost 5*s.* 6*d.* the bushel; in 1793, 6*s.*; in 1794, 6*s.*; in 1795, 10*s.* Barley in those periods, 3*s.* 6*d.*, 4*s.*, 4*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.* Potatoes, 1*s.*, 1*s.*, 1*s.*, 1*s.* 4*d.* Bacon, the lb., 8*d.*, 9*d.*, 9*d.*, 9*d.* Meat, the lb., 3½*d.*, 3½*d.*, 4*d.*, 4½*d.* The only fuel used by labourers is turf. It may be termed cheap.

Norfolk. Diss.—Common labour, from 14*d.* to 18*d.* the day. Wages during the harvest months, from £4 to £4 4*s.* One friendly society, not in a flourishing state. Wheat, in 1792, was 5*s.* 0¾*d.* the bushel; in 1795, 10*s.* 4½*d.* Rye, in 1792, 3*s.* 1*d.*; in 1795, 3*s.* 11¼*d.* Bacon, in 1792, 6*d.* the lb.; in 1795, 8*d.*

Meat, in 1792, 4½*d.* the lb.; in 1795, 5*d.* Coals, in 1792, £2 the chaldron; in 1795, £2 5*s.* 6*d.* Usual size of farms, from £50 to £100 per annum.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. Between Wellingborough and Northampton.—Common wages, 7*s.* the week, small beer, and one meal, each working day; harvest wages, from £2 2*s.* to £2 10*s.*, and board. Farms from £120 to £250 per annum. Constant work in winter. A few miles to the north of Northampton, common wages, in 1792 and in 1793, were 1*s.* 2*d.*; in 1794, 1*s.* 4*d.*; and are now (1795) 1*s.* 6*d.* the day, besides a meal and small beer. In 1792, harvest wages were £2 2*s.*; they are now £3 3*s.*, besides board, during the harvest month. Roundsmen very common; the old and infirm, who subsist in this way, in some parishes, receive 4*d.* the day from the parish, and 6*d.* from the employer. Farms in the nighbourhood of Northampton are, in general, large: £200 a very common size.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—About 60 years ago, reapers in this county received 4*d.* a day and victuals; 40 years ago they received 6*d.* a day and diet; these wages continued for several years much the same. A. Young, in his Northern Tour, states agricultural wages to have been, 30 years ago, from 5*s.* 2*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.* (Lett. XXXI.). Wages kept advancing irregularly till last year (1794), when they were generally 2*s.* a day, without victuals. An old tailor in the neighbourhood of Morpeth, who is now upwards of 90, says that when he was between 20 and 30 years of age, 4*d* a day were the common wages for men in his line of business, with diet; that a few years afterwards they rose to 6*d.*, which was the highest day wages he ever took for sewing; common tailors in Morpeth now receive 1*s.* a day, and their victuals. He adds that although the usual day's pay for a reaper, when he was young, was 4*d.*, he and a partner, being remarkably good reapers, demanded 6*d.* a day, which their employer at last agreed to give, although his wife grumbled at

what she thought was extravagance. However, to reconcile matters, the tailor proposed that he and his partner should do as much work in a day as three of the farmers' best reapers usually performed, which was assented to. Common labourers, 60 years ago, barely received 4*d.* a day and victuals; they have now 10*s.* a week, with a house and fuel, but no board. Spinners of wool, 30 years ago, had 2*d.* a day and board; they now have 4*d.* a day and victuals. About 50 years ago they only received 9*d.* a week and diet. Women working in the fields as weeders, etc., 30 years ago, had 4*d.* a day, without diet; they have now double that sum. Masons in Newcastle, 40 years ago, were paid 1*s.* 4*d.* and 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; they now receive 2*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* A mason's labourer, 40 years ago, had 1*s.*; he now has 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

Oxfordshire. Nuneham.—The ordinary wages of labourers are: for men, 8*s.* the week; and 12*s.* the week in harvest, together with three pints of beer. Women, in common, have 3*s.* the week, and 6*s.* in harvest. Children, above 9 years of age, can earn from 1*s.* to 3*s.* the week. Men, by ordinary work, can earn from 10*s.* to 12*s.* the week; and from 16*s.* to 18*s.* in harvest. Each cottage has a small garden which supplies the family with potatoes. A considerable quantity is also distributed among the Poor, every winter, by Lord Harcourt. He likewise allows such families as behave well, a guinea a year, for every fourth child, till the child is ten years old; and when it goes to service, some clothes are usually given. Poor families are also enabled to send their children to school, without any expense; and various other charities are bestowed by Lord and Lady Harcourt on the parish. Every parishioner is allowed to purchase flour, one-third of barley, and two-thirds of wheat, at 7*d.* the quartern loaf; and to buy at this price as many half-peck loaves, every week, as there are persons in the family. Such flour is sold them at 2*s.* 4*d.* the peck;

potatoes cost 2*s.* the bushel; bacon 9*d.* the lb.; and meat 5*d.* the lb. Elsfield, near Oxford.—Common wages, 8*s.* the week in winter; 9*s.* in summer. Threshing, mowing, etc., are commonly done by the great, by which 11*s.* or 12*s.* a week may be earned. A man and his wife, by reaping, may earn £1 7*s.* a week; for pitching and making up ricks, 9*s.* a week, with meat and beer, are the usual wages. Work may be had during the winter. Cottages are mostly rent free. There are several potato gardens. Firing is given to most poor families, and they are in other respects assisted by charitable farmers and landlords. Women earn, by spinning, from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* the week. There are no friendly societies in the parish. There is a great appearance of poverty. The rates, in 1792, were 1*s.* 9*d.* in the pound; in 1794, 2*s.*; in 1795, 2*s.* 3*d.*; and in the year ending at Easter, 1796, (including the quota for the Navy), 4*s.* The largest farm is 400 acres; the smallest, 70.

Suffolk. Hundred of Colneis and Carlford.—In various parts within this district, wages within the last 12 months have risen from 1*s.* 2*d.* the day and beer, to 1*s.* 4*d.* and beer; besides which, most farmers allow their labourers all sorts of grain, at reduced prices, permitting them to buy, at this price, half a stone or peck per head in family. Those who do not grow corn, pay their labourers 1*s.* 6*d.* the day, and allow them two bushels of malt, every three months, for three-quarters of the year, and three bushels for the harvest quarter. The rates have increased, since 1787, three-fourths of the original assessments, which was then assessed on the incorporated parishes within this district.

Yorkshire. East Riding, Neighbourhood of Hornsey.—Common wages, with diet, from Martinmas to Lady Day, 5*s.* the week; ditto from Lady Day to Midsummer, 6*s.*; ditto from Midsummer to Michaelmas, 9*s.*; ditto from Michaelmas to Martinmas, 6*s.* Common wages,

without diet, 9*s.* the week in winter, and 12*s.* in summer. In harvest, men receive 12*s.* and 14*s.* the week, and victuals; and women 6*s.* and 7*s.* the week, with beer, but no meat. There is very constant employment in the winter. The labourers are, in general, supplied by their employers with corn, etc., much below the market price. The rents of cottages vary according to the quantity of land annexed, and are from £1 0*s.* to £1 10*s.* Many of the cottages on this coast are miserable hovels, built of mud and straw. Such habitations are sometimes granted by the parish to poor families; and sometimes the parishes supply their poor inhabitants with fuel Many cottagers cultivate potatoes in their garths or gardens; some have a pig, and a few keep cows.

From these statements the reader will be enabled to form some idea of the conditions of the labouring classes. That they have, during the last two years, been subjected to great distress, from a rise, unexampled within the present century, in the price of the necessaries of life, everyone will readily acknowledge. It is not, however, from a view of their situation, in a period of scarcity, that we are to estimate the comparative ability of a man to support himself by his labour, in modern and ancient times. Still less is a period of war to be selected as the moment of ascertaining the ordinary comforts and gratifications of the peasant or working manufacturer. The fact seems to have been that, instead of an advance in wages, proportioned to the increased demand for labour, the labourer has received a considerable part of his employer's capital, which was destined for his maintenance, in the form of Poor's Rate (the very worst that it could assume), instead of being paid it as the fair, well-earned recompense of equivalent labour. This deplorable evil has fallen, heavier on the Poor than on the Rich, as the following example will illustrate. The very great price of the necessaries of life, but more particularly of bread-

corn, during the whole of last year, produced numberless extraordinary demands for parochial assistance. In many parishes in the country of Berks, relief was granted, not only to the infirm and impotent, but to the able-bodied and industrious, who had, very few of them, ever applied to the parish for relief, and then only during temporary illness or disability. An increase in the income of the labourers in husbandry was undoubtedly due, but there existed a difference of opinion respecting the mode of making it.

In order to apply some adequate remedy, a meeting of the magistrates for the county was held about Easter, 1795, when the following plans were submitted for their consideration: 1, That the magistrates should fix the lowest price to be given for labour, as they were empowered to do by 5 Eliz. c. 4; and 2, that they should act, with uniformity, in the relief of the *impotent* and *infirm* Poor, by a table of universal practice, corresponding with the supposed necessities of each family. The first plan was rejected by a considerable majority, but the second was adopted. The arguments in favour of adopting the regulations prescribed by 5 Eliz. c. 4 went no further than this: that by enforcing a payment for labour from the employers, in proportion to the price of bread, some encouragement would have been held out to the labourer, as what he would have received, would have been payment for labour. He would have considered it as his right, and not as charity; and the spirit of independence, now almost extinct, would have been preserved and cherished. But the adoption of the regulations of this Statute was rejected, and the second part only of the plan carried into execution. The *system* of the administration of the Poor Laws has supposed that a man can only maintain himself his wife, and two children, by the wages of labour when the price of labour is 1*s.* 4*d.* per day, and bread 1*s.* 1*d.* per gall. (or half-peck weighing 8lbs. 11oz.), and that every addition to the number of his children,

or to the price of bread, being beyond what his income would support, he must rely on charity to afford him a subsistence. The fallacy of this system is evident because the facts on which it relies are contrary to experience, there being, to the honour of the labouring Poor, frequent instances of families educated and maintained without the least relief from the parish, when wages were at a lower rate than the sum above stated. Such, however, was the theory; let us now consider the practice. In a family of eight (viz., a man, his wife, and six children), if bread is 1*s.* per gall., 13*s.* 6*d.*, including the man's wages, appear no very disproportionate allowance; but when the price of bread is (as it frequently was during the winter of 1794-5) at 2*s.*, £1 3*s.* 6*d.* (of which, even if you deduct the man's earnings, 9s., there remain 12*s.* 6*d.*) was a sum much exceeding the necessities of any individual.

The price of labour does not depend on the price of bread-corn. The natural effect which the price of any article of provisions has upon its consumption, is to diminish it. The consumer substitutes other food in lieu of it, and this will always be the case with those who are dependent solely on their own industry and prudence. This diminution would, in a short time, reduce the price, and the evil would gradually remedy itself. But this natural operation was counteracted by the system, which directed the formation of the Berkshire Table; because bread was kept at the same price to the consumer, by the extraordinary relief granted to him by the parish; and he had no inducement to substitute other articles in lieu of wheaten bread, though the substitutes for it were cheap, obvious and plentiful. Many particular facts may be adduced to confirm the fatal tendency of the system.

First, the relief held out was beyond the wants of the Poor. The gentleman who communicated this account was overseer in his parish, and knowing that the ratio of relief was too great, he called several individuals to-

gether, and requested them (this was during the highest price of bread) to state their actual wants, according to their utmost desires; he said he would allow them accordingly. The result was as follows:

	Actual allowance as demanded by the Poor	Justices allowance according to the size of their families	Difference
1—W.E.	£6 4 2	£7 6 1	£1 1 11
2—G.S.	£7 10 0	£13 13 3	£6 3 3
3—T.H.	£2 17 0	£6 8 9	£3 11 9
4—T.W.	£2 2 0	£3 7 9	£1 5 9
5—T.B.	£3 3 0	£6 8 5	£3 5 5
			£15 8 1

In these five instances, therefore, had the justices' regulations taken place, according to the directions laid down in the table, the parish at large would have paid its labourers £15 8*s.* 1*d.* not only beyond their necessities, but even beyond their desires. This then would have been a tax on the capital of the employers in favour of the employed, which, carried universally, as it was too generally, into execution, might have been, and indeed was, pregnant with dreadful mischief.

Secondly, its operation was unequal and partial with respect to the employers; for instance, R.F. had employed W.E. as a labourer for some years, at the rate of 8*s.* a week, while bread continued at the rate of 1*s.* or 13*d.* per gall. W.E., the labourer, received no relief from the parish, and never applied for any; the fair conclusion, therefore, is that 8*s.* per week were adequate to the support of himself, his wife, and two children. In the hard winter of 1795, a subscription was entered into in the parish of P, to reduce the price of bread to the Poor; when the winter was over, and the money raised by the subscription was expended, it was thought advisable to continue the same mode of relieving the Poor from the rates, as had been adopted by subscription, viz., paying the difference in the price of bread above 14*d.*, according to the consumption of the families. W.E. received from this mode of

relief £1 10*s.* 0*d.* After harvest, when the Justices' Table was universally adopted, W.E. received £6 14*s.* 10*d.* R.F., the constant employer of W.E., pays 17-115ths of the rates, i.e., if the money to be collected is £115 1*s.*, R.F. pays £17 6*s.* 6*d.* As 115 is to 17, so is £8 4*s.* to £1 4*s.* From £8 4*s.* deduct £1 4*s.* The saving to R.F. from his labourer being paid by the parish is £7. But W.E. was the only labourer in P. parish who was relieved strictly according to the Table. G.S. was relieved according to his own desires only. He received in bread allowance £2 16*s.* 4*d.*; relieved according to his own wants, £7 10*s.* Total, £10 6*s.* 4*d.* R.F., paying as before, 17-115ths, has advanced towards the maintenance of this man, his constant labourer, £1 10*s.* Saving to R.F., £8 16*s.* 4*d.* T.H. received in bread allowance £2. Actual allowance £2 17*s.* Total, £4 17*s.* R.F.'s proportion of the Poor's Rate, 14*s.* Saving to R.F., £4 3*s.* So that, from three labourers only, the saving to R.F. has amounted to £19 19*s.* 4*d.*

Here then, from a statement of facts, is a glaring proof of the inequality of this mode of administration. Had political regulations not interfered, the demand for labour would have raised its price, not only in a ratio merely to the wants of the labourer, but even beyond it; and that price would have been advanced by the individual who employed him, instead of being a general tax on those who are liable to be rated, and who are not all employers of labour. The capital which employs labour has increased; the demand for labour would consequently increase; it did increase, for the situation of the labouring Poor in Berkshire was never better than during the last hard winter; but they received these advanced wages in the way most prejudicial to their moral interests; they received it as charity, as the extorted charity of others, and not as the result of their own well exerted industry; and it was paid them, not by their immediate employers, but by those who were in many instances not the

employers of any labourer. Thirdly, the publication of the Table diminished the quantity of work done, and in that light was productive of a national loss. A, a labourer in the parish of P, maintained a wife and three children by working at a farmer's in the parish of U, at 1*s.* 4*d.* per day. The price of bread rises from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. He applies to the farmer, for whom he works, for an increase in the price of day labour. The farmer offers him task work, by which he may earn 12*s.* per week. As, however, the printed table is of public notoriety, and as the idle and profligate of his own parish, of the same number in family, are allowed 14*s.* 6*d.* per week, he applies to the overseers of his own parish to allow him 2*s.* 6*d.* per week to make the sum of his earnings 14*s.* 6d. The overseer (a farmer also in want of hands) exercising a sort of perverted law, says: If you will work in your own parish for me at day work, I will give you 9*s.* per week, and the remaining 5*s.* 6*d.* shall be paid by the parish, i.e., by people who reap no advantage from your labour. The consequence is, the man working only at day work, the work is diminished one-fourth in the proportion of 12 to 9; the employers pay 11-29ths, or nearly one-third more than he earns; and what is of more consequence, the man's spirit of independence is lost for ever. These are the effects of the justices' paper, or rather the principles which directed its publication.

If the effects had been beneficial to the labourer and just to the employer, they might have been regarded as the result of natural equity, and the question of their legality of the principles overlooked. But when they are found ruinous and destructive, it is natural to examine the Statutes to see if the evils complained of could be remedied by their abrogation. The language of the various statutes concerning the Poor, passed in the reign of Elizabeth, seems to imply that the relief of the *able-bodied Poor*, with or without families, was no part of the original system. The 3 W. and M. c. 11

§ 11 corroborates this idea, which is put out of doubt by the preamble to 8 and 9 Will. 3. c. 30 § 2 (to the end that the money raised be only for the relief of such as are as well impotent as poor). Had the relief of the able-bodied Poor been contemplated by the 43 Eliz., the clause which directs the assessment to be made by the overseers would not have been so loosely worded as to leave it a matter of doubt whether personal property should or should not be rated. The Poor Laws appear to have had two objects in view: 1, The relief of the impotent Poor; 2, the employment of the able-bodied and idle. Whether compulsory charity can be justified is open to doubt, but the impracticability of compelling it according to every man's ability is the only reason why personal property is not assessed. The presumption of the Law is that it should be assessed. This impracticability is a material argument against the whole of the system, but the wealth and humanity of the nation would never have suffered this question to be agitated if the execution of this part of the Poor Laws had been as confined as its design. It is not known when the change in the procedure began, but the evil must have grown to some enormity when it became necessary to ascertain the settlement of paupers with accuracy. But the second part of the scheme was based on an assumption, doubtful at the time and since proved to be mistaken. The framers of the Poor Law conceived that the capital of individuals was insufficient to employ all the labouring Poor of the kingdom, and that it was necessary to provide a public stock for their employment, and most of the theoretic schemes for the employment of the Poor have proceeded on the same principles. Now in gaols everything is in favour of public capital with respect to health and strength, in comparison with the infirm Poor of a Workhouse; but as Sir George Paul, in his address to the magistrates of the county of Gloucester, observes, "the working by machine in almost every branch

of hard labour, has so completely under-valued such work by hand that public expectation should not be raised too high relative to the *productive* consequences of *forced labour*.

By the blending these two systems in practice, a kind of glare, which obscures the truth, has been thrown upon Workhouses and Houses of Industry, where the saving arises from the decreased expense in accommodation, when a number of the Poor are collected together. The advantages, therefore, are only negative. This is the merit of the public Kitchen of Munich and the much-vaunted Workhouse of Shrewsbury. The Poor should not be deceived; the best relief they can receive must come from themselves. Were the rates once limited, the price of labour must necessarily advance. To expend what labour actually produces, in the most beneficial manner for the labourer, depends entirely on good management and economy. "This economy in all cases is the more to be urged, because the difference in comforts of the same families, at the same expense, well or ill-conducted, is greater often than that of different families at different expenses. There is more difference, comparatively, in the mode of living from economy than from income; the deficiency in income may possibly be made up by increase of work or wages, but the want of economy is irremediable, and the least income in question *with it* will do more than the greatest *without* it. No master can in the first place afford wages; next, no overseer can make allowance; lastly, no magistrate can order relief enough, on any calculation but that of their being severally well managed. If the Poor do not prudently serve themselves, none can effectually assist them; if they are not their own friends, none can sufficiently befriend them; the idle in procuring, or the wasteful in using, the means of subsistence, have neither merit in themselves to deserve, nor have others power to grant them that supply, which is alone due, and can alone be

afforded, to the honest, industrious and prudent. It highly then interests all conversant with the Poor, who ought to be literally all, and it is hoped are most, to consult and co-operate with them in the practice of economy; it is far more useful to teach them to spend less, or to save a little, than to give them much more (Annals of Agriculture, XXV., pp. 359-61.).

PAROCHIAL REPORTS

BEDFORDSHIRE

DUNSTABLE.—About 340 acres, and 1,000 inhabitants. Window tax on 115 houses, 78 exempted. Inns, 18. Farms, small (one 100 acres). Agriculture, principally pasture: wheat, barley, and beans are grown in the open fields. Rent, about £3 an acre. Land tax, 3*s.* in the pound, produces £247 18*s.* No commons or waste lands. Common wages in husbandry, 1*s.* a day, without board; 20*d.* a day has been given lately on account of dearness of provisions. In the straw work, which is the staple manufacture of the place, a woman can earn from 6*s.* to 12*s.* a week; children from 2*s.* to 4*s.* This business has given employment, for the last 20 years, to every woman who wished to work; and, for 10 years back, straw work has sold well, particularly in the spring. Earnings in this line have, for the last four years, been exceedingly great, which in some measure accounts for the Poor's Rates not having risen during that period. The straw is chiefly manufactured into hats, baskets, etc. A few women make lace. A manufacture of whiting employs about 10. The principal support of the inhabitants seems to be the great turnpike road, which passes through the town, and which accounts for the number of inns and ale-houses. Prices of provisions in September, 1795: Beef, 4½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 6*d.*; bacon, 9*d.*; butter, 1*s.*; milk, 1½*d.* per qt. (but little sold); potatoes, 2*s.* per bush.; bread, 1*s.* 8*d.* per half peck loaf; coals, 1*s.* 10*d.* per bush. Very large charities belong to this parish, which are applied towards clothing, educating, apprenticing out children, maintaining

impotent and aged women, distributing bread to the Poor, etc. No satisfactory account of the money thus annually distributed could be obtained. From various information it seems that in consequence of these donations, poor people from the neighbouring parishes endeavour, by every means in their power, to obtain settlements here, and are often successful. I have generally found that donations in money and other charities ease more the rates of neighbouring parishes than of those in the place in which they are actually distributed. Most of the Poor in Dunstable receive a parish allowance; the weekly pensions to 18 families, at present, amount to £1 12*s.* 6*d.*; ten persons are in a Poor-house, where they are farmed at 3*s.* 6*d.* each a week. The Poor in the Workhouse have been farmed many years; the farmer finds victuals and clothes, etc., and has their earnings; those who can work are employed in the straw manufacture. No constant rotation of diet observed. Four friendly societies in the town; only one has taken the benefit of the Act. The rates, at an average, are assessed upon three-fourths of the real rental. About £10 or £11 paid annually towards the county stock. Removals of vagrants, etc., cost about 7*s.* per week, this town being a great thoroughfare. The vestry clerk is allowed three guineas a year and about 2*s.* 6*d.* a month is spent in vestry meetings.

Houghton Regis.—Contains 4,340 acres, exclusive of about 100 acres of common, four miles off. 47 houses pay commutation tax, number exempted not ascertained. Employment of inhabitants: agriculture, straw work, and a little lace making. Prices of provisions and labour nearly the same as in Dunstable. Six Ale-houses in the parish. Average rent of land, about 14*s.* per acre. Land tax (usually paid by landlord), about 2*s.* 8*d.* in the pound. Farms from £30 to £150 a year. There are 50 or 60 acres of common in the parish, besides the 100 acres above mentioned.

Parish nearly all in open fields, but an application is to be made for an Inclosure Bill. Harvest work entirely done by men; labourers' wives and daughters do very little more than dress victuals for the family. A few poor women glean, make straw work, and lace. Tithes taken in kind. One friendly society in the parish. The Poor are principally maintained by a parish allowance at home. £12 6*s.* a month is paid among 32 out-pensioners; most have families; five other families obtain occasional relief. Four poor people are supported in the Poor-house. They were farmed till about August, 1795. The contractor usually had 2*s.* per head weekly in summer, and 2*s.* 6*d.* in winter. Last year it was raised to 3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* respectively. Assessment as nearly as possible on full rental. A subscription amounting to £50 distributed among the Poor in winter and spring of 1795.

Humbershoe.—This hamlet, in the town of Markyate Street and parish of Studham, contains about 120 acres, and 170 inhabitants. 15 houses pay tax, 19 exempted, one of which is empty. Markyate Street is in two counties and three parishes. Situated on one of the great north roads, it depends chiefly on travellers for support. In Humbershoe (on one side of the street) rates are 9*s.* in the pound; in the two hamlets on the opposite side, not more than 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* The reason assigned is that Humbershoe has very little land, and a number of ruinous houses. Prices are: Beef, 4½*d.* and 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.*; lamb, 6½*d.* or 7*d.*; veal, 7*d.*; butter, 11½*d.*; bread, 2*s.* per half-peck loaf; coals, 1*s.* 10*d.* and 2*s.* per bush.; potatoes, of which very few are sold, 1*s.* 6*d.* per bush.; milk, 2*d.* per qt., but very little sold. Wages of common labour, 7*s.* a week all the year, without board. Hay harvest men's wages, 9*s.* a week, corn harvest 40*s.* a month and diet. Wages for straw work vary from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* a week, according to demand. Chief article manufactured is straw hats. Rent about 15*s.*

per acre. Land tax 2*s.* 3½*d.* in the pound on net rental. One farm of £84 a year, the rest small. A composition of 3*s.* to 4*s* an acre taken in lieu of tithes. No commons or open fields. No friendly societies. Alehouses, 4. The Poor (about 11) maintained at home. Several others have their house rents paid by the parish. Sum thus distributed, £6 16*s.* annually. Occasional relief given to indigent persons. Assessments are at full rental. About 30*s.* a year paid to county stock, and between £3 and £4 to constables. Vestry clerk has one guinea a year. Rates in 1787, 3*s.*; 1788, 4*s.* 6*d.*; 1789, 7*s.* 6*d.*; 1790, 9*s.*; 1791-2-3, 6*s.*; 1794, 9*s*; 1795, 9*s.* 6*d.*

Leighton Buzzard.—No information as to size and population obtainable, 31 ale-houses, 198 houses pay window tax, number exempted not ascertained. Common labourers earn 6*s.* to 7*s.* a week, besides breakfast; in harvest, £2 2*s.* a month, and board. Lace-makers earn 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day, a few 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* Prices of provisions: Beef, 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; veal, 6*d.*; bacon, 9*d.* to 10*d.*; butter, 11*d.*; potatoes, 8*d.* per peck; milk, 2*d.* per quart; usual price of half-peck loaf of wheaten bread, 1*s.* 6*d.*, but lately 2*s.* 6*d.* Farmers are not very communicative respecting rent, but it is said that rent of open fields is not more than 10*s.* per acre, while enclosed meadow produces 30*s.* About 300 acres of common belong to the parish and hamlets, on which the Poor obtain turf. Farms are from £50 to £250 a year. The greatest part of the parish is in open fields. Corn tithe is taken in kind, hay in composition at about 4*s.* an acre. Land tax generally paid by landlord. Assessments said to be on net rental. This may happen to new tenants, but persons who occupy their own estate are usually rated on an old assessment. Three friendly societies, containing about 100 members. Very few Poor are to be found among the Quakers, the reason of which seems to be (as a Quaker observes) "that as soon as a member

becomes idle, drunken or otherwise depraved, he is expelled from the society." The Poor are partly maintained in a Workhouse, and partly at home. 19 persons at present in the house; some of them old or children unable to work. The boys are sent out to work for the farmers, a little lace is made by the women in the house. The whole earnings about 50*s.* a month. 44 out-pensioners receive at present £4 a week. Poor Rate: 1782-3, 3*s.* 6*d.*; 1784, 4*s.* 6*d.*; 1785, 3*s.* 6*d.*; 1786, 4*s.* 6*d.*; 1787-8, 3*s.*; 1789, 4*s.* 6*d.*; 1790, 3*s.* 6*d.*; 1791, 5*s.*; 1792-3, 4*s.*; 1794, 5*s.*; 1795, 4*s.* There is an Alms-house for eight poor women who have each an apartment, clothes, fuel, and 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. Donations, amounting to about £22, are yearly distributed in bread to poor parishioners. The Workhouse is in an excellent situation, but, at present, does not appear to be very cleanly. Diet in Workhouse: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—breakfast—bread, cheese and beer or milk pottage; dinner—beef, bread, pudding, sauce and broth; Monday, Wednesday, Friday—breakfast—bread and broth; dinner—cold meat; Saturday—breakfast—bread, cheese and beer; dinner—suet dumplings or milk or water pottage. Supper every day—bread, cheese and beer.

BERKS

READING.—St. Mary's parish, estimated at 900 acres. 240 houses pay tax, number exempted not ascertained. Inhabitants: tradesmen, farmers, agricultural labourers, but principally manufactures. Sail cloth, sacking or sackcloth, gauze, ribbon and pins made here. Weavers of sacking can earn 16*s.* a week; of gauze, from 15*s.* to 30*s.*; of sailcloth, 18*s.*; spinners of hemp are paid about 3*s.* a week. Sail cloth the only manufacture that is brisk at present. The war, although injurious to other manufactures, affords full employment to this. Common labourers earn 9*s.* a week. Prices of

provisions: beef, 4*d.* to 7*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.*; veal, 5*d.* to 7*d.*; lamb, 6½*d.* to 7*d.*; butter, from 11*d.* to 1*s.* 0½*d.*; bacon, 8½*d.* to 10*d.*; milk, 2½*d.* per qt.; wheaten bread, the quartern loaf, 11½*d.*; coals, 56*s.* the chaldron. Farms from £200 to £300. Rent from 30*s.* to 40*s.* per acre. Land tax about 2*s* in the pound. No commons or waste lands. Inns, 17; all Reading, which has three parishes, has 62. The Poor are chiefly maintained in a workhouse, erected about 20 years ago, for £1,400, of which £650 has been paid off. It seems a comfortable and convenient lodging for the Poor, but not always sufficiently aired. The lodging rooms contain 2, 3, 4 beds apiece, made of flocks and feathers. In winter generally about 80 or 90 persons in the house. They are chiefly employed in spinning hemp, but 2 looms for weaving sail cloth were lately erected. Some of the Poor are sent out to work for the farmers. About £350 a year are paid to out-pensioners, 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* the usual allowance to each. If they require more they are usually taken into the house. Diet in Workhouse: Breakfast—Sunday—Bread, cheese and beer; Monday and Friday—Bread and broth; Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday—Milk pottage; Thursday—bread and cheese. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday—Meat, pudding, vegetables and bread; Monday, Saturday—Bread and cheese; Tuesday—Bread and broth; Wednesday, Friday—Cold meat. Supper—every day—Bread, cheese and beer. Old people are allowed tea, bread and butter for breakfast. Rates in 1795 were 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on houses, and 5*s.* 2*d.* on land. The parish has a standing overseer, who, it is generally observed, keeps down the rates more than officers elected annually. His salary is £30. The vestry clerk's, £10. The Governor of the Workhouse has £31 10*s.* and board.. The surgeon who attends the Poor, £18 18*s.* Donations of about £100 a year are distributed among the Poor. Twelve persons belonging to this parish are in different almshouses, and receive from 7*d.* to 21*d.* a week. Many

of the labouring classes here possess very little foresight. It is not uncommon for a healthy young fellow, who has ample means of supporting himself and family, to request the parish to pay for the midwife for his first child. It rarely happens that a labourer supports himself, wife and children without applying for parochial aid; weavers who can earn 18*s.* a week do not hesitate soliciting relief, if a temporary stagnation of business curtails their common receipts, and reduces them to those difficulties which a little parsimony might have obviated. Tea is generally used here, twice a day, by the Poor; the other part of their diet is, principally, the best wheaten bread, and occasionally a little bacon; it is seldom sufficiently boiled, and is thought to give them the sallow complexion which is much observable here. There are three Friendly Societies who have all complied with the Act of Parliament. The rates in the other two parishes of the town are somewhat lower than in St. Mary's.

STREATLEY.—Expenses and earnings of a labourer's family: The man is 50; he has a wife and seven children, three of whom are out at service. The four youngest, at home, are 5, 7, 12, 14 years old. The two oldest, who are boys, drive the plough for neighbouring farmers. The two youngest do not work. The wife earns about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week throughout the year. The man earns in winter 8*s.* a week, and at present 12*s.* a week. For about 10 days in the wheat harvest he receives 3*s.* a day. The earnings of the family amount to about £46. Their yearly expenses are as follows:

	£	s.	d.
8 half-peck loaves a week, or 410 in the year, at 1*s.* 9*d.*	36	8	0
2lb. of cheese a week, at 7*d.* per lb.	3	0	8
2lb. of butter a week, at 9*d.* per lb.	3	18	0
2lb. of sugar a week, at 9*d.* per lb.	3	18	0
2oz. of tea a week, at 3*s.* per lb.		19	6
½lb. of oatmeal a week, at 3*d.* per lb.		6	6
½lb. of bacon a week, at 3*d.* per lb.	3	5	0
2*d.* in milk every week		8	8
Candle, soap, salt, starch, blue, etc., about	2	7	4
Home rent	2	5	0
Fuel is chiefly beech wood collected in the woods; what is bought costs about	1	0	0
Shoes	1	10	0
Shirts and shifts	2	10	0
Other clothes	2	2	0
Total expenses	63	18	8
Total earnings	46	0	0
Deficiency	£17	18	8

The earnings appear to be very high, but the expenses are enormous; it is, however, necessary to observe that the articles consumed are marked at present prices, which in some instances are a third and upwards higher than a year ago. The house rent is paid by the parish, and several persons furnish the man with old clothes, and sometimes shirts; in case of sickness he gets parochial relief. The parish allows 1*s.* 6*d.* a week for every child not old enough to work. His yearly receipt on this account will be £7 16*s.* This is to be continued as long as the high price of provisions keeps up. The great consumption of bread is very striking. They eat boiled bacon generally once a week, and seldom taste fresh meat. Potatoes are seldom cultivated or used. During the last 7 years the Poor Rates were 3*s.* in the pound, except in one year when they were 3*s.* 6*d.* This year, including the expense of raising men for the Navy, it is expected they will amount to 6*s.* or 7*s.* Streatley is on the Thames, which frequently overflows in winter, causing great distress to the Poor in the lower part of the parish. The parish is about 4 square miles in extent. Farms from £200 to £300 a year. Very few cows kept. Rent about 16*s.* an acre. Several acres of good common.

Labourers' house rent usually paid by the parish. No friendly societies. The Poor are mostly farmed.

WALLINGFORD.—Parish of St. Mary contains about 30 acres. Houses paying tax, 112; number exempted not ascertained. Prices of provisions: beef, 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.*; veal, 5*d.*; lamb, 6½*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; bread, 21½*d.* the half-peck loaf; butter, 1*s.*; new milk (of which little is sold), 2*d.* per quart; eggs, ½*d.* each; coal, £3 7*s.* 6*d.* the chaldron. Wages of common labourers from 8*s.* to 7*s.* a week; farmers are unwilling to raise wages, but allow their labourers provisions at less than selling price during a dear season. Farms in neighbouring parishes are large, from £200 to £300 a year. In Cholsey is a farm of £800, in which there is a barn supposed to be the largest in England, 101 yards long, 18 yards wide. It was the repository for the Abbot of Reading's tithes, who resided here in the summer. The crops between this place and Oxford are very luxuriant. Tithes mostly compounded for. Land Tax about 22½*d.* in the pound. Number of inns, 16. The contractor who farms the Poor receives £300 a year, for which he undertakes to supply all the Poor belonging to the parish with victuals, and clothes. The parish pays doctors, and attorney's bills, etc. The Poor are not employed in any manufacture; but such as can do a little work, are allowed to go out of the Poor-house, wherein they are maintained by the contractor. The introduction of a woollen or linen manufacture would perhaps be serviceable to this part of the country. A mixture of agriculture and manufactures, more especially when the latter are scattered through a country, seems to be the most effectual method of keeping the Poor in constant employment. Country manufacturers escape the immorality and dissipation too much connected with large towns; and have this further advantage, that in the occasional stagnation to which all manufacturers are subject, or upon an unusual demand for agricultural labour, they can vary their occupation; a mode of life,

which (notwithstanding the many national advantages pointed out by the advocates for the division of labour) seems to be not more conducive to the health than congenial to the natural disposition of mankind. The following is the usual weekly rotation of diet in the Poor-house: Breakfast, all the week—Milk pottage or broth; Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—Butcher's meat, bread and vegetables; other days—Cold meat; Supper, all the week—Bread and cheese. There are no friendly societies at present in Wallingford. There were two, not instituted on a good plan. Their funds decayed so fast that they found it advisable to break up their clubs, and divide what money remained among the members. The parish of St. Leonard has no Poor-house; the Poor are relieved at home. The best wheaten bread has been immemorially used by every description of people. Persons here remember wheat in 1761 being £7 a load (a load is 5 quarters: 8 bushels to the quarter, each bushel of 9 galls.). In 1740 wheat was £20 a load, and about 1756 it sold at £24 a load. About 140 acres of land belong to St. Leonards. About 30 acres of common are annexed to the whole town. Between £9 and £10 is annually paid from the Poor's Rate of St. Leonards towards the county stock; and about £6 from St. Mary's. The Register of St. Mary's has, all along, been kept in such a loose, incorrect manner, that very little information could be picked out of it. Accounts could not be procured before 1790. From report, however, it seems the rates were 4*s.* in 1779, 6*s.* in 1780, and have not been lower since. For a few years, during which the farming of the Poor was discontinued, the rates were 11*s.* and 12*s.*

New Windsor.—This parish appears from the very uncertain information respecting its contents to contain somewhat more than 5,100 acres. Its population may be near 3,000 inhabitants. About 470 houses pay tax. Between 60 and 70 are exempt. The number of inns is 27. Tithes are compounded for. The land tax is

£976 10*s.* 0*d.*, to which the King contributes £170, called Debenta money. There are no commons or waste lands. Prices of provisions: Beef, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; Mutton, 6*d.* to 7*d.*; veal, 7*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; salt butter' 10*d.*; fresh butter, 14*d.*; new milk, 3*d.* per quart; at the King's farm old milk is sold at ½*d.* per quart. Common labourers receive 9*s.* a week and beer; in hay harvest, 10*s.* a week, and beer; in corn harvest, 2*s.* a day, and dinner. Their wages are higher by a shilling a week than last year (1794). There are three friendly societies, in each of which the number of members is limited to 81. Their rules have been confirmed by the magistrates. The Poor are either relieved at home, or in a Poor-house, which is a very convenient building, and seems to be kept tolerably clean. Feather beds are used. There are 6 or 7 in each room; 2 sleep in a bed. 96 paupers, chiefly old people and children, are at present in the house. The latter are instructed in reading till they are 7 years old, and are then put to a free school, where they are clothed and educated till they are 14, when the boys are bound apprentices till they are 21, with an apprentice fee of £10, arising from the interest of donations bequeathed for that purpose. In the Poor-house linen and stockings are manufactured for the use of the house. For all other work, which consists in picking hair, wool, etc., for other manufactures, the Poor are allowed 2*d.* in every shilling they earn for the house. Their annual earnings do not exceed £20 to £25 a year. 75 regular out pensioners receive £81 11*s.* 10*d.* a month. About £100 are paid annually to casual Poor. The parish books were not accessible, but from the information of the overseers it appears that the rates have not varied much in 20 years. In 1794, 2*s.* 6*d.* on a low-valued rental; in 1795, 2*s.* In addition, the King pays £100 a year Poor's Rate for his possessions in the parish, and £20 a year towards repairing the church. Table of diet in the Poor-house: Breakfast, every day—bread and broth; Dinner—Sunday—Mutton and vege-

tables; Monday, Wednesday, Friday—cold meat; Tuesday, Thursday—Beef and vegetables; Saturday—Bread and cheese. Supper, every day—Bread and cheese for adults; bread and butter for children. At dinner and supper a pint of small beer is allowed to a grown person, and a less quantity to children. Women who can procure themselves tea and sugar have bread and butter at breakfast, instead of broth. About £300, of which £100 were given by His Majesty, were collected last winter and spring (1795) in voluntary contributions, for the Poor. Bread was bought and sold to them at reduced prices; about £150 of the money still remain with the parish officers, and will be applied to the relief of the Poor next winter. The houses within the limits of the Castle do not belong to this parish.

BUCKS

BUCKINGHAM.—This parish consists of the Borough of Buckingham and 5 hamlets. It contains about 3,800 acres, and about 2,000 inhabitants, whose occupations are principally agriculture and lace making. 230 houses pay window tax, about 180 exempt. Labourers work chiefly by the piece; earnings are irregular, from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; women on the average earn 8*d.* or 9*d.* a day by lace making. The parish supports several roundsmen, particularly during winter. Farms are from £60 to £300 a year. No commons. A great part of the parish is in pasture. One hamlet in open field; the others all old enclosure. Every farmer rents his tithes from the Marquis of Buckingham. Prices of provisions: Beef, 4½*d.* and 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 5*d.*; bacon, 9*d.* and 10*d.*; butter, 9*d.*; milk, 1*d.* the quart (small measure); potatoes, 6*d.* and 8*d.* the peck; coals, 2*s.* per cwt. Number of inns, 26. Land tax about 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the real rental. The Poor are maintained at home or in the Workhouse, in which there are at present 14 persons—women,

children and old men—some of whom are insane. Till within the last two months (i.e. July, 1795) the Poor were let to a contractor, who farmed them at various sums, from 2*s.* to 3*s.* each weekly. He usually received such persons as the parish chose to send. The last month's expenses were £11 17*s.* 5*d.* The earnings, chiefly from lace making, about 15*s.* a month. The salary of the present master is 7*s.* 6*d.* a week. No regular bill of fare has been observed, but since the parish has taken the Workhouse into their own hands the inmates have been allowed meat once a day. The house is very small and new furniture is much wanted. 104 out pensioners receive, in the whole, £7 11*s.* a week. There are two hospitals in the parish, one for 6 and the other for 8 poor widows, who are there provided with necessaries, and receive 17*s.* each in money every year. About £24, in donations, are annually distributed to the Poor, and in a large house belonging to the parish 24 poor families are allowed to live rent free. A friendly society existed here a few years ago, but in consequence of disputes among its members it broke up. Buckingham is a place of very little trade, and the inhabitants in general seem poor.

MAIDS MORTON.—This contains about 900 acres, 69 families, and about 310 inhabitants. 19 houses pay tax, 43 exempted. One alehouse. The occupations of the parishioners are agriculture and lace working. Prices of provisions much the same as in Buckingham. The wages of labourers are from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, with beer, but work is chiefly done by the piece, and earnings are about 15*d.* or 18*d.* a day. There are several roundsmen, who receive 6*d.* a day from their employers, and from 6*d.* to 9*d.* from the parish, according to the wants of their families. Farms are from £17 to £90 a year. About 30 acres of old enclosure; the rest open field. Tithes taken in composition. Rent of land from 18*s.* to 20*s.* Land tax about 2*s.* in the pound; in some cases paid by landlord, in others by the tenant. About 60

or 70 acres of common. The Poor have an allowance at home. At present 14 poor people (several of whom have families) receive £1 17*s.* 6*d.* weekly. Occasional relief is given to others. Exclusive of the rate (3*s.* 9*d.* in the pound in 1795) the inhabitants were lately rated at £25 to buy bread for the use of the Poor. Last winter (1794-5) about £30 were raised by voluntary subscriptions, for the same purpose. An annual donation of £4 is also distributed. No friendly societies.

Stony Stratford.—This is a considerable thoroughfare, being a long street, each side being in a different parish. The parish on the south side contains 30 acres. Land tax about 3*s.* 7*d.* in the pound. The population could not be ascertained. It has varied very little for many years. The inhabitants are common tradesmen, innkeepers and lace makers. The latter entirely women, who earn from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a day. Labourers receive from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* 12 alehouses. 120 houses pay tax, number exempted not ascertained Poor Rate, 1790, 5*s.* 2*d.*; 1791, 7*s.* 6*d.*; 1792, 4*s.* 10*d.*; 1793 and 4, 5*s.* 6*d.*; 1795, 6*s.* 6*d.* on the net rental. The Poor of both parishes are maintained in the Workhouse. The rent is £16 a year, two-thirds of which are paid by the southern parish. 11 persons (10 of this parish) now in the house. No regular course of diet is observed, but meat is allowed three days a week. 18 regular pensioners receive in weekly allowances £1 11*s.* A few others have occasional relief. Two friendly societies.

Winslow contains about 1,400 acres and 1,100 inhabitants. 101 houses pax tax, about 110 exempt. Labourers earn from 6*s.* to 7*s.* a week, besides breakfast; in hay time, 7*s.* a week and board. In corn harvest 2 guineas a month and board. Lace makers earn from 8*d.* to 9*d.* a day on average. There seems to be a great want of employment here. Most labourers go "on the rounds," in winter as many as 40. They are wholly paid by the parish, unless the householders choose to employ them, and they become very lazy and imperious. Chil-

dren of 10 are put on the rounds and receive 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a week. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5½*d.*; veal, 5½*d.*; bacon, 9½*d.*; butter, 11*d.*; potatoes, 8*d.* per peck; pit coal, 2*s.* 3*d.* per bush.; sea coal, 2*s.* per bush.; a loaf of wheaten bread, 8¾ lbs., 1*s.* 6*d.* This is the usual price, lately it was as high as 2*s.* 3*d.* Very little milk sold. Farms from £60 to £400. About 200 acres arable. The rest of the parish in grassland. No commons. In 1744 part of the parish was enclosed, the rest in 1766. Land was then given in lieu of tithe. The rise of the rates is chiefly ascribed to the enclosure of common fields, which it is said has lessened the number of farms, and from the conversion of arable into pasture has much reduced the demand for labourers. An old inhabitant says that before the enclosues land did not let for 10*s.* an acre, and when he was young the name of roundsman was unknown. Rent is from £1 1*s.* to £2 15*s.* an acre. Land tax, 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. Number of inns, 14, but it is thought that when licences are renewed several will be suppressed. No friendly societies. The Poor are maintained partly in a Workhouse, partly at home. 16 persons at present in the house. A contractor farms them at 3*s.* a week each, and receives their earnings. Before the late dearness of provisions he received only 2*s.* Their diet is not regulated by any particular bill of fare. Many others receive occasional relief. During the late dear season, the Poor went in a body to the justices to complain of their want of bread. The magistrates ordered the parish officers to raise their earnings to certain weekly sums—from 7*s.* to 19*s.*—according to the number of their children. These sums were to be reduced proportionately with the price of bread. Rates: 1790, 4*s.*; 1791, 3*s.* 8*d.*; 1792, 5*s.* 8*d.*; 1793, 4*s.*; 1794, 5*s.*; 1795, 6*s.* Houses are said to be assessed at two-thirds their real rent; land at full value. About £11 paid to county stock.

CHESHIRE

CHESTER.—The city includes 9 parishes, and is a square of about 2½ miles. In a lately published history of Manchester it is said that Chester contains 3,428 families, and 14,713 inhabitants. Mr. Bedward, treasurer of the city, estimates the population at 17,000. Houses paying tax are 1,346; number exempt not ascertained, but believed to be about 2,000. Chester is not remarkable for its activity in trade or manufacture, the people are chiefly small tradesmen, farmers and labourers. Many families of independent fortune reside here. About 30 or 40 people carry on a cotton work, about 100 are needle makers. Two iron foundries employ a few hands. Prices of provisions: Beef, mutton, veal, pork, 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; butter, 15*d.* to 16*d.* for 24oz.; new milk, 2*d.* the quart; old milk, 1*d.*; potatoes, 2*s.* for 90 lbs.; wheat, 14*s.* to 15*s.* for 38 quarters; barley, 6*s.* 6*d.*; oats, 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* the same quantity Labourers receive in winter 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* the day; in summer 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* and beer. Harvest wages vary much according to demand, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*, with 2 quarts of ale per day. Number of public houses is 135. Rent of land near the city from £1 10*s.* to £4 per acre; average, £1 18*s.* Farms from £30 to £100 a year, chiefly hay and pasture. In neighbouring parishes farms have, of late years, been much consolidated. Land tax, collected in wards not parishes, varies from 8*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. Tithes partly in kind, partly compounded. In the neighbouring parishes generally in kind. No commons in the Chester parishes, nor any modern inclosures, except near the Dee, where many thousand acres of sand, part belonging to these parishes, have within a few years been brought into cultivation. No satisfactory information obtainable as to friendly societies, of which there are about 3 or 4. They have 70 to 100 members, each with rules confirmed by the magistrates. Their numbers much

decreased of late years. Several broke up owing to loss of funds, partly through failure of a bank, and partly through an unsuccessful canal. Although, in some respects, incorporated by an Act of Parliament (2 Geo. III. c. 45, 1761), each parish supports its own Poor. There is a general Poor-house in Chester, to which every parish can send its own Poor, on payment of a sum each year. The original intention was to have a house of industry, a plan which has at different times been carried into execution, continued for a few years, and then dropped. For the last 2 or 3 years very little work has been done. The Poor-house is situated near the river, the lodging and other rooms large and well aired ; 15 or 16 beds in a room, made of chaff or straw, and much infested with bugs. No small apartments for married people. The Poor in the house at present are chiefly aged persons and children. Old women spin flax and pick oakum. Children at 10 years of age are sent as apprentices to Manchester and other places. About 11 deaths annually in the house. The assessments vary much in different parishes. The rates are about 2*s.* in the pound. Voluntary contributions in 1794 for poor relief came to £491 17*s.* 1*d.*, of which £156 11*s.* 8*d.* remained in hand in November, 1795. 8,000 persons, nearly half the population, applied in the winter of 1794-5 for relief. The weekly bill of fare is as follows : Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Broth and bread ; other days—Milk gruel and bread. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Beef, potatoes, etc. ; Monday, Wednesday—Butter, milk and potatoes ; Friday—Beef, soup and potatoes ; Saturday—Oatmeal hasty pudding. Supper —Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Bread and butter ; other days—Milk, gruel and bread. One lb. of bread allowed each day to grown persons, 6oz. beef on meat days, and 1 pint of beer ; children in proportion. Butter milk served on potato and hasty pudding days. The people of Chester find great disadvantages from the parishes not having been completely united. Removals

and expensive appeals are continually taking place between the parishes. The great number of annual guardians is very inconvenient. The Poor have generally a dislike to come into the Workhouse.

High Walton.—This township, in the parish of Runcorn, contains about 300 acres, and 110 inhabitants. 15 houses pay tax, 7 are exempt. Prices of provisions: Wheat, 14*s.* 6*d.* for 70lb. weight; barley, 6*s.* for 36 quarters; oats, 4*s.* 3*d.* for 36 quarters; butcher's meat, 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; butter, 11*d*; old milk, 3 pints for 1*d.*; butter milk, 2 quarts for 1*d.* Wages of common labourers are 8*s.* a week throughout the year without victuals; a few have 9*s.* Rent of land from 20*s.* to 35*s.* an acre. Farms chiefly of £20 and £30; one as high as £130. Land principally managed with a view to the dairy. Land tax about 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound, usually paid by the tenant. Tithes taken in kind. No commons. About 16 acres enclosed 23 years ago. No friendly societies. Poor have a weekly allowance at home. Amusements on an old valuation, property rated much below present value.

Mickle Trafford, in the parish of Plimpston, is nearly a square mile in extent. About 200 inhabitants. 24 houses pay tax, 16 exempt. Price of provisions much the same as in Chester. Wages of labourers, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a day, with beer. Farms chiefly from £50 to £60 a year. Mostly dairy farms. Average rent about 25*s.* Tithes taken in kind. About 12 acres of common. No friendly societies and only 2 ale houses. This township claims a share of Kinderton Workhouse, but sends no Poor thither. 13 poor families receive weekly allowances of 1*s.* to 3*s.* at home. Several house rents also paid. Assessment about two-thirds of real rental. Rates in 1794 and 1795, 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

CORNWALL

Gwennap.—About 7 or 8 miles S.W. of Truro, is about 4 square miles in extent, with about 4,000 in-

habitants, mostly engaged in mining. These men are better paid than most labourers in England. Ordinary wages about 40*s.* a month. 8 inns and 3 friendly societies in the parish, containing about 400 members. Prices of provisions: Wheat, 11*s.* the bushel; barley, 4*s.* 6*d.*; butcher's meat, 5½*d.* the lb. Farms are small. Towards the western part of the county potatoes are much attended to; about Penzance two crops of potatoes in a year are not uncommon. Tithes usually rented. One half the parish is waste land. The Poor chiefly relieved at home, 40, however, are in a Workhouse, in which there is no sort of manufactory. Weekly allowance is 2*s.* 3*d.* The Poor's Rates are much eased by the lords' dues being taxed, as the mines are very profitable to the land owners.

KENWYN lies a little to the north of Truro, and is 5 miles long by 3 broad, with about 3,000 inhabitants, chiefly miners, much increased of late years, owing to opening of new tin and copper mines. Number of inns, 18; and of friendly societies, 4, with about 300 members. Price of provisions, wages, size of farms, and other circumstances relating to the parish, much as in Gwennap. About one-third of the parish is waste. The Poor are relieved at home. Rates in the pound: 1789, 10*s.* 6*d.*; 1790, 15*s.*; 1791, 17*s.*; 1792, 12*s.*; 1793, 11*s.*; 1794, 15*s.*; 1795, 12*s.* 6*d.*

CUMBERLAND

AINSTABLE is nearly a square of 8 miles, containing about 5,120 acres, whereof 3,480 are common, giving good pasturage for sheep and black cattle. There are about 1,200 sheep. Farms are small and chiefly occupied by proprietors. About 400 acres enclosed in the last 50 years. Average rent about 18*s.* an acre, but here, as in most parts of Cumberland, an extensive common right is attached to most arable land. Oats and potatoes form the principal part of a Cumberland labourer's diet. Wages much the same as in Kirkoswald

and Hesket (which see). There are 434 inhabitants. 50 houses (2 with 6 windows) pay tax, 48 exempt. No book of parish accounts could be met with; expenses of maintaining the Poor, however, are much higher than formerly. Present yearly expenditure about 10¾*d.* in the pound on full rental. Two removals into the parish, neither contested, took place in the last 20 years. The Poor, except for the lunatics, are now farmed for £49 a year. The interest of £50 is distributed yearly among the Poor, who do not receive parochial aid.

BROMFIELD lies in two of the five wards into which Cumberland is divided. It is nearly ten miles long from east to west, parallel to the Solway, and is never more than four miles broad. It contains twelve villages or townships. The land is very fertile, rents being about £1 an acre, but farms are small, few exceeding £100 a year; most are about £50. The price of labour is not low. Day labourers earn from 1*s.* to 2*s.* a day, according to their merits and the kind of labour they are engaged in. The wages of men servants in husbandry hired by the half-year, are from 9 to 12 guineas a year, while women who do a large part of the work of the farm, with difficulty get half as much. It is not easy to account for so striking an inequality, still less to justify it. The Poor's Rates in Bromfield and the adjoining parishes have risen astonishingly in the last 30 years; a district less liable to extrinsic or adventitious influence cannot easily be named, and yet within the last twenty years the Poor's Rates have been nearly doubled, which is the more extraordinary as there are no manufactories in the parish. Taking both men and women into account, the present rates here impose a tax of six shillings and sixpence per poll, and if rated by the actual rent of the land, probably about 9*d.* in the pound. There are no box clubs or friendly societies in the parish, and above all no benefactions or regular annual charities, which always have a considerable influence on the rates.

CALDBECK contains by estimation 12,800 acres, of

which 8,500 are common. There are 1,780 inhabitants. The average rent of land is about 15*s.* an acre. The land tax is collected by the purvey at the rate of about 3½*d.* in the pound on the full rental. Tithes are paid in kind, but about 400 acres are tithe free, having formerly belonged to the Cistercian Abbey of Holm-Cultram. Wages in harvest are 1*s.* a day, with victuals; ordinary wages for men and women between Martinmas and Candlemas 10*d.* a day, with victuals; the rest of the year 1*s.* a day, with victuals. Poor Rate on the average, 8¾*d.* in the pound on the full rental. Two contested removals which took place a few years ago will not soon be forgotten by the parishioners. The attorney's bill for attendance, etc., was £44 8*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenses of witnesses, house hire, journeys, etc., £34 15*s.*—total, £79 3*s.* 2*d.* Another contested removal cost the parish £4 13*s.*, and another £1 9*s.* There is one friendly society in the parish, formed in 1784, membership 130. The stock at present amounts to £220. They meet once a month, pay 6*d.* into the box, and spend 2*d.* While the stock does not exceed £150 a sick member is allowed 4*s.* a week; when above £150, 5*s.*; and if £200, 6*s.* a week. If the disorder does not wholly prevent working, the allowance is proportionately reduced. Members of 70 and over are allowed 4*s.* a week, without any obligation to work. The rules have been confirmed by the justices.

CARLISLE.—A few years ago a Workhouse was erected for £1,000. It belongs to Carlisle, but 13 adjoining parishes send their Poor thither. The proprietors are entitled to all earnings, but very little work is done, as few that can work will come in. The amount earned between Aug., 1793, and July, 1794, was £20 9*s.* 4*d.* A set of rules is provided for the management of the Workhouse, whereof the tenth and eleventh are as follows: A committee of three shall visit the house once a week, inquire into the management of the master and mistress, and hear the complaints and grievances of the Poor, who are hereby requested to take notice that for

every frivolous or unjust complaint made by the Poor, of or against the master or mistress, they will be most severely punished. Those regulations shall be read over to the Poor once a week, who shall be assembled for the purpose, and their names called over that none may pretend ignorance. On the ground floor of the Workhouse a dungeon is provided for the confinement of the refractory. The table of diet is as follows: Sunday, Wednesday—Breakfast—Hasty pudding and milk or beer. Dinner—Broth, beef and bread, with beer. Supper—Bread and broth. Monday and Thursday—Breakfast—as on Sunday; Dinner—Potatoes, mixed with a little milk and butter, broth, bread and beer; Supper—Hasty pudding or boiled milk and bread. Tuesday—Breakfast as on Sunday; Dinner—Boiled milk and bread; Supper—Hasty pudding and milk or beer. Friday—Breakfast as on Sunday; Dinner—2 slices of boiled beef and soup; Supper—Bread and broth. Saturday—Breakfast as on Sunday; Dinner as on Tuesday; Supper—Bread, cheese and beer. On Christmas Day the paupers are allowed roast mutton, plum pudding, best cheese, and ale. Since this institution was finished, it has produced a very considerable saving to the parish, principally by discouraging applications to the parish, for although it is certain that in the Workhouse the Poor are far better provided with the important necessaries of food, clothing, habitation and fuel than they could be by their most industrious exertions at home, this mode of receiving parochial relief is universally disliked; many distressed families prefer the chance of starving among friends and neighbours in their own native village to the mortifying alternative of being well fed, well lodged, and well clothed in a Poorhouse, the motley receptacle of idiots and vagrants. There are in the house 18 Poor belonging to the city, of whom 2 are under 12 years of age, and 20 from adjoining parishes, of whom 5 are under 12. There are also 32 paupers, including 4 bastards, receiving parochial relief

outside the house. St. Mary's Quarter contains 367 houses paying tax (170 have over 6 windows). Not more than 10 separate houses exempt, but a great proportion are double tenements. Land tax collected by purvey, at 1½*d.* in the pound on full rental. In Carlisle are 6 friendly societies, 5 of men, 1 of women; one of the former is wholly composed of men in the cotton stamperies. They are as follow:

Date of establishment.	No. members.
1—1772	240 men
2—1778	140 men (stampers)
3—1781	170 men
4—1781	150 men
5—1781	135 women
6—1782	145 men

Caldewgate Quarter contains about 12,00 acres of enclosed land and 400 acres common. Rent of land from £1 to £5. Tithes taken in kind. 136 houses pay tax (18 have about 6 windows), not more than 20 exempted. There are, however, many double tenements. Wages vary extremely. Journeymen stampers when in full employment can earn 21*s.* in summer, and 15*s.* in winter, from which sums 2*s.* to an assistant boy is deducted. Apprentices get 5*s.* a week for 5 years, and 7*s.* a week for the remaining two years of service. Labourers in the stamperies earn 7*s.* and 7*s.* 6*d.* a week, women from 3*s.* to 12*s.* A good weaver, with constant work, can earn 12*s.* or 15*s.*, but in general, 8*s.* or 9*s.* seem to be their usual earnings. Manufacturers have, lately, not been able to get full employment. The diet of these people is very different from that in the surrounding country parishes; tea is substituted for hasty pudding, and butcher's meat for butter, milk and potatoes. At present only two persons belonging to this Quarter are in the Workhouse. 30 receive relief in their homes. Caldewgate Quarter, containing several large manufactories is liable to a great influx of strangers, so that removals often take place, generally 5 from, and

about 1 or 2 into, under orders of removal. Contests ensue on these occasions; one pauper often produces two or three litigations. The inhabitants pique themselves on their courage and resolution in defending parochial privileges, and would rather spend £20 in getting rid of a pauper than in maintaining him at half that expense. No certificates are granted. A donation of 40*s.* is annually distributed in equal proportions among 20 poor widows; and another of £2 2*s.* each to 10 poor people of the Quarter who do not receive parochial aid, is annually given at Candlemas. 137 families, estimated to amount to one-third of the population of the Quarter, partook of the contributions lately raised for the relief of the necessitous. Cummersdale Quarter has about 2,000 acres, the average rent being about 18*s.* an acre. 21 houses (one with more than 6 windows) pay tax, 20 exempt. The inhabitants are chiefly farmers. Land tax collected by purvey, at 1½d. in the pound. Tithes paid in kind. About 800 acres enclosed 27 years ago. No regular accounts are preserved respecting Poor's Rate, which is about 9¾*d.* in the pound. It is said to have increased in recent years. There are no Poor from this Quarter in the Workhouse. 10 receive allowances at home. Removals not very frequent, about 2 every three years. In Rickergate Quarter 80 houses pay window tax (21 having above 6 windows). It contains about 480 acres. Rent from £1 to £5 an acre. Land tax collected by purvey at about ¾*d.* in the pound. Tithes payable in kind, but a composition of 2*s.* in the pound often taken for hay. Within the last 3 years there have been 4 removals from, and 3 into, this Quarter, which with some contest that arose in consequence, cost the Quarter upwards of £40. There are no Poor from Rickergate Quarter in the Workhouse. 28 Poor receive relief at home. It has been a general rule in Cumberland for many years past not to grant certificates. This Quarter, however, granted one about 2 years ago to a nailer; he lives at Wigton, where he can make shift

to support himself and his family, but if removed into this parish would certainly become chargeable. In 1763, Carlisle contained 4,158 inhabitants; in 1780, 6,299; in 1787, 8,677.

CASTLE CARROCK is estimated to contain 750 acres of cultivated land, 600 acres of low common and 1,500 of mountainous common. Number of inhabitants, 232, of whom 15 are artificers, 20 lime workers, the rest agricultural labourers. 31 houses pay tax (none has more than 6 windows), 11 exempt. Most of the parish remains unenclosed, about 100 acres enclosed in the last 50 years. Land tax, collected by purvey, amounts to about 5*d.* in the pound on full and fair rental. Tithes paid in kind. Rent of land about 18*s.* an acre. Men in harvest receive 1*s.*, women 10*d.* a day, with victuals. Threshers, hedgers, etc., get from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day; weeders, 6*d.* a day; wool spinners, 4*d.* a day, and victuals; labourers at the lime kilns receive 7*s.* 6*d.* a week, without victuals. There are 5 paupers, relieved at home. One friendly society, established 1780, with 29 members. Their rules have undergone considerable alteration, and are now before the magistrates for confirmation. Only 3 removals in the last 20 years, none contested. One, contested 22 years ago, is said to have been very expensive, but the law charges cannot now be ascertained. No regular accounts are preserved respecting the expenditure of money in parochial charges, but the rate appears to be about 10¼*d.* in the pound.

CROGLIN has about 7,000 acres, but only 890 are cultivated; the rest is fell land. 26 houses pay tax, none with more than 6 windows, 15 exempt. The average rent of open fields is 9*s.* 6*d.* an acre, of inclosures 15*s.* or 16*s.* Land tax estimated at 4½*d.* in the pound on fair rental. About 100 acres of common field have been enclosed with the last 50 years, but the greater part remains in narrow crooked dales, or zanes, as they are called. Scanty crops of oats and barley the principal produce. Labour

ers in harvest earn 1*s.* a day with victuals; women, 10d.; hedgers from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day with victuals; lime burners during two months in summer, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day without victuals. Poor's Rate (collected by purvey) amounts to about 3¾*d.* in the pound on a fair rental. No Poor in this parish. A donation of £20 was bequeathed last year, the interest of which is to be paid at Christmas. This well-intentioned gift will probably soon create Poor enough to receive it. 2 removals in the last 14 years. One contested about 20 years ago is said to have been very expensive. One friendly society, with 5 members, is about to dissolve.

CUMREW contains by estimation 800 acres of cultivated land and 1,200 acres of fell land. It is cultivated in the old Cumberland manner: the grass ridges in the fields are from 20 to 40 feet wide, and some 1,000 feet in length. Grazing cattle often injure the crops. The average rent 14*s.* an acre. Oatmeal is paid in lieu of tithe hay and corn. Sheep, wool, etc., in kind. 184 acres of common enclosed in last 50 years. There are 146 inhabitants, 27 houses (one with more than six windows) pay tax, 7 exempt. The Poor have an allowance at home. One friendly society, started in 1780, with 60 or 70 members. The rules are being altered, with a view to confirmation by the magistrates. Only 2 removals in the last 20 years. Usual wages are as follows: Men in harvest, with victuals, 1*s.* a day; women in harvest, with victuals, 10*d.* a day; threshers and hedgers, with victuals, 8*d.* and 10*d.* a day. Labourers at lime kilns as in Croglin.

CUMWHITTON contains about 7 square miles, of which the greatest part is common. The inclosed land is in small farms from £5 to £50 a year. 50 houses (none with more than 6 windows) pay tax, 41 exempt, of which 5 are uninhabited. The average rent of land, including common rights is about 18*s.* Land tax, collected by an old purvey, is about 3½*d.* in the pound. Tithe, wool and lamb, paid in kind; oatmeal instead of corn and

hay. No friendly societies. Poor Rate about 4*d.* in the pound. The Poor receive a parish allowance at home. Wages by the day are: Threshing, hedging, ditching, digging turves and peat, 8*d.*; reaping, from 10*d.* to 1*s.*, mowing from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* Women by the day earn sometimes 6*d.*, but mostly 4*d.*, for weeding corn, hoeing turnips, etc.; in harvest, 10*d.*; in hay-making, 6*d.*; and by spinning wool, from 4*d.* to 6*d.* Skim milk, which is very generally used, is sold 3 pints for ½*d.* The price of other provisions is fluctuating. The usual food of labourers is: Breakfast—Hasty pudding made with oatmeal and water, eaten with milk, and sometimes a little butter. Dinner—The diet is more variable, but usually potatoes with a little butter or bacon, followed by milk and barley bread, butcher's meat boiled, and a flour pudding usually for dinner on Sunday, and sometimes on a week day, more especially during harvest. Supper—Commonly milk boiled with oatmeal, and eaten with barley bread. The following is a statement of the expenses of the usual daily fare of a labourer: Breakfast—Hasty pudding and milk, 1*d.*; Dinner—Potatoes, ¼*d.*; butter or bacon, ½*d.*; milk and bread, ½*d.*—total, 1¼*d.*; Supper—Boiled milk and bread, ¾*d.*—total, 3*d.* This sum, however, is more than any poor person expends in a day's provisions. The following is a statement of the earnings and expenses of a tailor in the parish; he is 30 years of age, has a wife and three daughters, whose ages are 5 years, 2 years, 2 months. The man earns 8*d.* a day, and victuals for 50 weeks in the year, 2 weeks being allowed for indisposition, etc.=£10. An apprentice who earns him 2*s*, a week=£5. His wife spins lint, reaps a little in harvest. etc., and earns about £3. Total, £18. Expenses: House rent, 16*s.*; fuel, peat and turf, 10*s.*, besides the man's labour=£1 6*s.* Barley, 18 bush. at 5*s.*, £4 10*s.*; oatmeal, 26 stone at 2*s.* 4*d.*, £3 8*s.*; butter, 50lb. at 8*d.*, £1 13*s.* 4*d.*=£9 4*s.* Milk, 180 quarts, 15*s.*; treacle, 5*s.*; malt and hops, 5*s.*=£1 5*s.* He gets potatoes planted

in the neighbouring fields for the turf and peat ashes, and a little reaping in harvest, they cost him about 8d. a bushel, 30 bush.=£1. Cheese, 4s.; tea and sugar, 10s.; candles, soap, salt, etc., £1=£1 14s. Midwife, 5s. once in two years, 2s. 6d.; no other expenses are incurred in a lying-in, it being the custom in this place for every neighbour to make a small present on these occasions=2s. 6d. He feeds a pig and sells part of the pork, balance about £1. Clogs and clothes, 10s.; other clothing, etc., £1 18s. 6d.=£2 8s. 6d. Total, £18. This man has a careful wife, who could support herself and family with her husband's earnings, viz. 4s. a week. The following is a statement of the earnings and expenses of a woman aged 61, and is an instance of Cumberland economy among many others that might be pointed out. She spins wool for her neighbours about 15 weeks a year, and earns 4d. a day and victuals=£1 10s. The remaining 37 weeks she spins lint at home for a manufacturer, and earns 13½d. a week=£2 1s. 7½d. Total earnings, £3 11s. 7½d. Interest on £10, 10s. Total, £4 1s. 7½d. Expenses: House rent, 10s.; fuel (peat and turf), 7s.=17s. Barley, 2½ bush. at 5s.=12s. 6d. Oatmeal, 6 stone at 2s. 4d.=14s. Butter, 8lbs. at 8d.=5s. 4d.; milk, 220 quart, 5s. 6½d.=10s. 10½d. She gets 3 pecks of potatoes planted for her; her turf ashes produce about 9 bush., balance of expense about 2s. Tea not used, sugar and treacle, 4s.; salt, candle, soap, etc., 4s. Clogs, one pair in 2 years, 1s. 6d.; shoes, one pair in 7 years, 6d.=2s. Butcher's meat, 1s. 6d.; wheaten bread, 1s.=2s. 6d. Shifts, 2s. 9d.; other clothes, etc., 10s.=12s. 9d. Total expenses, £4 1s. 7½d. This woman's earnings are small, but she makes her expenses correspond. She seems perfectly happy, content and cheerful, and always takes care to avoid debt. Her father rented a small farm of only £8 a year, and as he was very lame she was obliged to do the greatest part of the work. On his death she disposed of the stock, etc., and after discharging all his debts and funeral expenses, a surplus of

£10 remained, which she placed in the hands of her landlord, the interest of which pays her rent. When she was able to reap in harvest, she earned a little more money ; yet notwithstanding her present scanty income, she has no thought of applying to the parish. She receives no assistance whatever from her friends. Her common diet is hasty pudding, milk, butter and potatoes. She was brought up in a most frugal manner, and feels no inconvenience from being obliged to live so abstemiously. She never had a teapot in her house at any period of her life. The common expense of clogs, for a year in this country (supposing no shoes to be worn), is 4*s.* 4*d.* for a man that works out of doors, and about 3*s.* 8*d.* for a man within doors ; for a woman, 3*s.* 6*d.*, and for a boy about 12 years old, 3*s.*, etc.

GILCRUX contains about 1,200 acres, of which 100 are common. 24 houses pay tax (10 have 7 windows), 12 exempt. There are 207 inhabitants. The rent of land from 6*s.* to 21*s.* an acre ; average about 14*s.* Land tax at 3¾*d.* in the pound. Tithes paid in kind, except hay. About 400 acres of common field have been enclosed within the last 50 years. Wages of labourers, in harvest, 10*d.*, 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, with victuals ; at other times, 10*d.*, with victuals. The parish rent part of a Poor-house at Cockermouth for £2 a year. This is intended as a check on the class of indigent persons that fell within the description of "Sturdy Beggars." No pauper undeservedly necessitous has ever been sent thither. Of 3 removals (2 into and 1 out) which have taken place within the last 20 years, one was contested a few years ago. The attorney's bill on that occasion amounted to £14. The Poor's Rate is collected by the purvey, and is about 9¾d on the full rental

HARRINGTON is on the coast a little south of Workington Estimated acreage, 1,600 ; 700 acres of common were enclosed about 20 years ago Inhabitants, 1,412, of whom 252 are sailors, 268 colliers ; about 500 in various occupations relative to commerce and manufacture.

101 houses pay tax (6 with more than 6 windows), 163 exempted Land let from 5*s.* to 25*s.* an acre, average about 13*s.* or 14*s.* Land tax about 2½*d.* in the pound on the full rental. Labourers here are principally employed in the collieries, and work by the piece ; they earn from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. The Poor's Rate is 1*s.* 4*d.* on the average of the last 16 years, but has risen much in recent years. This year (1795) the parish began to maintain the Poor in Workington Poor-house. The Poor have such a dislike to this mode of provision that it is expected it will lower the rates very considerably. There is a friendly society, consisting of colliers, with about 160 members. They have no printed rules. Mr. Curwen contributes liberally towards raising their funds, but if any member works 12 days for another master he is excluded from receiving any benefit. Six removals have taken place since 1786 ; none were contested.

HESKET contains about 19,200 acres, mostly common, and 1,150 inhabitants. The population is declining, and many cottages have been pulled down in the present (18th) century. Good grass land let at 30*s.* and 40*s.* an acre. It is used chiefly for dairying, and for occasional grazing of droves that pass through the parish. Farms are from £10 to £100 a year. Land tax collected by purvey at about 2½*d.* in the pound. No more than 200 acres have been enclosed within the last 50 years, but a large part of the parish appears to have had its hedges planted a little before that period. In harvest, men receive from 10*d.* to 14*d.* a day, with diet ; women from 10*d.* to 1*s.* with diet. A haymaker gets from 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day with diet. In winter, till Candlemas, wages of agriculture are 8*d.* a day with victuals, and after Candlemas 10*d.* a day with victuals. Mowing grass, 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre. Ditching from 4*d.* to 9*d.* a rood. A headman's yearly wages are from £10 to £14. A next servant from £8 to £10 ; a boy of 12, 25*s.* ; a dairymaid from £4 to £5 ; other women servants from £3 to £3 10*s.* The Poor's Rate was collected by purvey till about four years ago,

when a valuation and a pound rate took place. The average rate from 1774 to 1794 is 6½*d.* in the pound on the full rental. There are 12 paupers from this parish in the Carlisle Workhouse. Occasional relief is given to a number of poor persons (at present 24) at their homes. A parish meeting is held every month, to which the necessitous apply, and are relieved at the discretion of the overseers; if they refuse what is offered them, they are sent to the Workhouse—an alternative which they always wish, and generally contrive, to avoid. No records of removals or certificates. An old man, formerly overseer 14 years, says about 5 removals happen every 3 years, 3 into and 2 out of the parish. 6 or 7 contests took place when he was in office. The interest of £50 is annually distributed to the Poor who do not receive parochial relief. One friendly society, with 140 members.

KIRKOSWALD contains about 12,800 acres, mostly mountainous common, and 937 inhabitants. 97 houses pay tax (12 having more than 6 windows), 98 exempt. Very few enclosures in the last 50 years. In harvest, men get 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.*, with victuals; women, 10*d.* and 1*s.* a day and victuals. Threshers, ditchers, etc., earn from 4*s.* to 5*s.* a week with victuals. The general employment of women is spinning lint or flax, when not otherwise engaged. Wages are very inconsiderable. A woman must labour hard at her wheel, 10 or 11 hours a day, to earn 4*d.* In the north of England, where spinning is much attended to, many more men than women are obliged to seek parochial relief. Two friendly societies, with 68 and 84 members. 4 removals in the last 20 years, one contested, at a cost of £12 to £13.

NENT HEAD.—The following are the earnings and expenses of a miner of 45 years, with a wife and 7 children—2 boys and 5 girls. The eldest girl is 18, the youngest 1. Earnings of man, £26. Wife and children occasionally wash ore and get about £18. Total, £44. Expenses: Rent, £3; fuel (peat), £1; barley bread, £5 10*s.*; milk,

£1 16*s.*; butcher's meat, £10; potatoes, £4; oatmeal, £4; cheese, £1; tea and sugar, £3 10*s.*; butter, £3; soap, candles and groceries, £2; clothing and other incidental expenses, £5 4*s.* Total, £44. Three other children died. The expense of 10 lyings-in was near £20. The following are the earnings and expenses of another miner in the same place. The man is 39, with a wife and 4 boys and 4 girls living; 2 died. The eldest is 18 and the youngest 1½. Earnings of man, about £30; of eldest boy, also in the mine, £18; total, £48. Expenses: Rent, £3; peat, nil; bread (barley and rye), £10; oatmeal, £5; butcher's meat, chiefly beef, £8; potatoes, £4; butter, £5; milk, 10*s.*; tea and sugar, £3 10*s.*; wheat flour, 10*s.*; cheese, 16*s.*; clothes, groceries, etc., £7 14*s.*; total, £48. Miners are much given to drinking, but become more sober when married. They live chiefly on crowdie, barley, rye and butcher's meat.

SEBERGHAM contains 2,420 acres of old cultivated land, and 2,576 of common, divided about 28 years ago. 80 houses pay tax (9 having above 6 windows), 148 exempt. Rent of land, 14*s.* Land tax collected by purvey[1] at about 2¼*d.* in the pound. Tithes are paid for by composition. Labourers in harvest have 1*s.* a day and victuals; men and women in other works of industry, between Martinmas and Candlemas, 10*d.* a day; and 1*s.* a day and victuals the rest of the year. No friendly societies or charities. The Poor of the parish

[1] The purvey originally was a composition in money for the King's *purveyance*, or providing for his household when he went on a progress into different parts of the kingdom. In some places it was paid in cattle or other provisions in kind: hence in Lancashire they have a manner of laying assessment still called *oxlay*. Against King James's return out of Scotland through the county of Cumberland in September, 1617, the Justices of the Peace were ordered to compound for the King's purveyance at the rate of £108 or thereabouts, which sum being laid upon the whole county became afterwards a standard for regulating other assessments; and when the sum of £108 was raised it was called one purvey and so on. In the year 1665, for the greater ease and convenience, the purvey was fixed at the precise sum of £100. . . . Thirty-seven purveys and a half are raised for the land tax when it is 4*d.* in the pound.—Nicholson and Burns' *History of Westmoreland and Cumberland*, 1-13.

were farmed for some years back; but upon the contractors not allowing them sufficient victuals, the justices refused their acquiescence, and a parish allowance is now given to each pauper at home. There are now 21 such persons. Within the last 10 or 12 years there have been only 2 contested removals, which cost the parish about £10 each.

WARWICK on the Eden is about six miles from Carlisle. It contains 600 acres of common and 1126 acres of cultivated land. The population, which has increased considerably in the last 18 months, owing to a cotton factory having been started, is 347. 28 houses pay tax (two with more than six windows), 35 exempt, some of which are cottages built within the last 20 years. Average rent of land, 19*s.* or 20*s.* an acre. Almost the whole of the cultivated land has been enclosed within the last 50 years. Land tax collected by purvey at about 3*d.* in the pound. Wages much the same as in neighbouring parish of Wetheral.

WETHERAL contains 7,556 acres of cultivated land, and about 2,500 acres of common. There are 1,413 inhabitants. 172 houses pay tax (six with more than six windows), 129 exempt. Rent about 14*s.* on the average. Land tax collected by purvey at about 2*d.* in the pound. Tithe payable in kind. Labourers in husbandry, assistant masons, etc., receive in summer from 16*d.* to 18*d.* a day, without victuals, and about 13*d.* a day without victuals throughout the year. Women in harvest earn 1*s.* a day and their dinner, and in weeding corn, etc., 10*d.* a day without, and 6*d.* with victuals. Two friendly societies. The Poor have been farmed for several years back, but about March, 1796, a Workhouse was started, in which there are seven adults and about 16 children. No out pensions are granted except on account of young bastard children. The table of diet is as follows: Breakfast, every day, hasty pudding or boiled milk; dinner, Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, meat and broth. Each person has

½lb. of meat, besides which the master divides 4 or 5lbs. as he thinks proper. Monday, Thursday, potatoes generally stewed or hashed, with broken meat of previous day; Tuesday, potatoes and butter; Friday, 5lb. beef stewed with potatoes. Supper, Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, broth and milk; Monday, Thursday, Friday, boiled milk; Tuesday, milk and barley boiled. The expenses of the Poor between 1780 and 1797 average about 6½*d.* in the pound. Within the last 10 years 5 removals have taken place from the parish, 3 contested and 4 received under orders of removal. The following is a statement of the earnings and expenses of a labourer's family: The man is 44 years old, with a wife and 3 children: one boy 10 years old, 2 girls of 8 and 6. The man about 30 weeks in the year gets his victuals at home, and earns 9*s.* a week; the rest of the year he earns 5*s.* a week and his victuals. Annual earnings, £19. Wife spins lint occasionally, and earns about £1. She earns in harvest £1 5*s.* Total, £21 5*s.* Expenses: House rent, £1 11*s.*; fuel (coal), £1 16*s.*; the wife's father carts the coals a little below the common price, £3 6*s.*; barley meal, 6ost. at 1*s.* 8*d.*, £5; milk, 1,040 quarts at ½*d.*, £2 13*s.* 4*d.*; potatoes, 20 Winchester bushels, £1 5*s.*=£3 8*s.* 4*d.*; butter, 40lbs. at 8*d.*, £1 6*s.* 8*d.*; oatmeal, 40st. at 2*s.* 4*d.*, £2 6*s.* 9*d.*=£3 13*s.* 5*d.*; tea, sugar, groceries, £2; clogs, 18*s.*=£2 18*s.*; clothing and other expenses, £2 19*s.* 3*d.* Total, £21 5*s.* Since the dearness of provisions, this family have used very little flour, and have reduced their other articles of consumption; they feed a pig annually, part of which they sell. Perhaps a balance of 20*s.* ought to be added to the expenses on that account. The present wages and prices of provisions are given, but the earnings are stated at more than this man really made last year; he was sick and unable to work near a quarter of a year last winter; but as he belonged to a club from which he received 6*s.* a week, during the first 6 weeks, and 4*s.*

a week afterwards during his illness, his family made a shift to support him and themselves with his club money. Potatoes and salt formed the greatest part of their meals. In fact, the labourer's families in this county generally reduce their expenses to a level with their earnings, and potatoes, which are a cheap food, are used more or less as necessity requires. The contrast is very great between the above account and the following statement of the earnings and expenses of a manufacturer in the same parish. This family consists of a man, aged 50, his wife and 4 boys—16, 14, 10, 4 years old—and 2 girls—12, 6 years old. Earnings: The man weaves callico and earns about 7*s.* a week=£18 4*s.* 6*d.*; oldest boy, same employment, 8*s.* a week=£20 16*s.*; second boy, same employment, 5*s.* a week=£13. His wife, girl and boy by winding cotton earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a week=£6 10*s.* Total, £58 10*s.* Expenses: Fuel, £2 10*s.*; rent, £1 19*s.*=£4 9*s.*; oatmeal, 70st. at 2*s.* 4*d.*, £8 3*s.* 4*d.*; barley, 45 Winchester bushels at 5*s.*, £11 5*s.*; potatoes, 56 bushels at 1*s.*, £2 16*s.*=£22 4*s.* 4*d.*; butter, 50lbs. at 8*d.*, £1 13*s.* 4*d.*; tea and sugar, £2=£3 13*s.* 4*d.*; butcher's meat, £8 10*s.*; cheese, £1; candles, £2=£11 10*s.*; soap and other groceries, £2 10*s.*; clogs, £1 10*s.*; shoes, £1=£5; milk in summer, 2*s.* a week; beer in winter, 2*s.* a week=£5 4*s.*; clothes and other expenses, £6 9*s.* 4*d.* Total, £58 10*s.* This family is very improvident; their earnings are great, yet they bear every mark of abject poverty, and get into debt. It is supposed if their earnings were doubled, that they would not save anything. The following is the statement of the earnings and expenses of another family, which consists of a man, 38 years old, his wife, and 3 boys whose ages are 7, 5 and 2. Earnings: He is a callico weaver, and earns yearly about £21. His wife has begun to weave, and besides taking care of her family, earns about £8. Total, £29. Expenses: Rent, £1 10*s.*; fuel, £1 15*s.*=£3 5*s.*; barley, 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, £6 10*s.*; oatmeal, 50st.

at 2*s.* 6*d.*, £5 16*s.* 8*d.*; 1,560 quarts of milk at ½*d.*, £3 5*s.*; 56lbs. butter at 8*d.*, £1 14*s.* 8*d.*=£17 6*s.* 4*d.*; butcher's meat, £3 10*s.*; potatoes, 30 bush., £1 10*s.*= £5; candles, £1; soap and other groceries, 10*s.*= £1 10*s.*; clogs, 13*s.*; shoes, 5*s.*; clothes, 15*s.*=£1 13*s.*; other expenses, 5*s.* 8*d.* Total, £29. This man and his wife have not been able to get any new clothes for themselves these several years back; they had fortunately been well provided with this necessary article before their marriage.

WORKINGTON is near the mouth of the Derwent, and is about 9 square miles in extent. It contains between 11,000 and 12,000 houses and about 6,000 inhabitants. The number has increased considerably in recent years, owing to the collieries. There are several other manufactures here—roperies, sailcloth and cordage factories, an iron foundry, 2 blast furnaces, several furnaces for casting, and a mill for boring cannon. Meat is generally dearer here than in most parts of Cumberland. Cod during the season is plentiful, and often sells for ½*d.* a pound. Herrings are brought from the Isle of Man The Poor of this parish are chiefly supported in a large and commodious Workhouse, which can take 150 persons. It is placed a little out of the town in an open, healthy situation, and was opened on the 28th October, 1793. The effect on the rates has been a saving of over £252 yearly. Every possible attention is paid to the Poor, and such as have need of parochial assistance are comfortably and amply proivded for, but a Workhouse, with all its comforts, is not attractive, and perhaps this is the principal cause of its being highly beneficial. There are several friendly societies in this town and neighbourhood, and the reduction in the Poor Rate is in some degree ascribable to the operations of these excellent institutions. The *Sisterly Society* of Workington was started in 1793 under the patronage of Mrs. Curwen, and is governed by the Lady Patroness, whose office is perpetual, assisted by

a committee of 12 members, 2 stewardesses and a secretary. All elected annually. There are now 225 members. The funds in hand are over £283. The *Coalminers' Society* was started on 1st Jan., 1792, under the patronage of Mr. Curwen, who for every £10 collected advances £3. As a foundation he advanced £10 10*s*. Each member contributes 1*s*. a week, but by common consent this may be increased. Members who are incapacitated get 5*s*. a week for 13 weeks, 3*s*. for the next 13, 2*s*. 6*d*. for the next 13, and after that 2*s*. while unable to work. The class of people of whom this society is composed is extremely liable to various casualties. The funds in hand are now 15*s*. 5*d*. It seems, therefore, highly necessary for the society to increase the weekly subscription or reduce the allowance. The *Friendly Society*, also under the patronage of Mr. Curwen, began in Oct., 1783, and is governed by a president, a committee of 10, two stewards and a secretary, all elected yearly. The present funds are £147. The allowance is 7*s*. 6*d*. for the first 13 weeks, 5*s*. 6*d*. for the next 13, and 3*s*. 6*d*. a week afterwards. On the death of an indigent member £2 2*s*. are allowed towards his funeral. The *Honourable Society*, started March, 1792, has 100 members. It is governed by a president, 2 stewards, one clerk, and 2 wardens, elected quarterly. Present funds over £101. Each member of 18 months standing is allowed 7*s*. 6*d*. a week for 12 months during incapacity, and 4*s*. afterwards. All superannuated members receive 4*s*. a week. The *Coalminers' Society* at Harrington began in January, 1793, under the patronage of Mr Curwen, whose contribution is the same as the former Coalminers' Society. The present fund is £17 13*s*. 8*d*. The monthly contribution of each member is 6*d*. Sick members receive 6*s*. a week for 12 weeks, and 2*s*. afterwards. On death £5 are paid to the widow or other surviving representatives. The *Coalminers' Society* of Ewanrigg is under the patronage of Mr. Curwen, who

contributes as in other cases. It began in January, 1795. The funds in hand on 1st January, 1796, are £31 7*s.* 2*d.*

The following is a statement of the usual yearly expenditure and receipts of an agricultural labourer in Cumberland. His family consists of himself, wife, and 5 children. The parents are about 33, and the children 9 to ½ a year :

January—	£	s.	d.
5st. oatmeal at 1*s.* 11*d.*		9	7
1 bush. potatoes (=3 Winchester bush.)		2	8
2lb. butter at 8*d.*		1	4
62 quarts of milk at ½*d.*		2	7
4lb. treacle at 4*d.*		1	4
2 pecks of barley (=3 Winchester pecks)		5	3
Salt 2*d.*, candles 4*d.*, soap, etc., 6*d.*		1	0
House rent 2*s.* 6*d.*, fuel 1*s.* 6*d.*		4	0
Clothes, repairs in furniture		5	0
	£1	12	9

Entries for February, March and April are similar.

May—	£	s.	d.
1½ stone of oatmeal at 2*s.*		3	0
3 pks. potatoes at 10*d.*, 2*s.* 6*d.* ; 2lb. butter at 7*d.*, 1*s.* 2*d.*		3	8
155 qts. milk at 2*d.*, 6*s.* 5*d.* ; 3 pks. barley at 11*d.*, 8*s.* 3*d.*		14	8
Salt, soap, etc., 9*d.* ; 3lb. bacon at 6½*d.*, 1*s.* 7½*d.*		2	4½
House rent 2*s.* 6*d.*, fuel 1*s.*, clothes repairs, etc.		5	0
	£1	12	2½

June nearly similar to May.

July—	£	s.	d.
1½st. oatmeal at 2*s.*		3	0
1 pk. (i.e., 3 Winchester pecks) potatoes		1	0
3lb. butter at 6*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.* ; 155qts. milk at 2*d.*, 6*s.* 5*d.*		7	11
3 pks. barley at 11*d.*, 8*s.* 3*d.* ; salt, soap, etc., 9*d.*		9	0
4 lb. beef or mutton at 3*d.*, 1*s.* ; house rent, 2*s.* 6*d.*		3	6
Fuel, 1*s.* ; clothes, repairs of furniture, 5*s.* 6*d.*		6	6
	£1	10	5

August nearly similar to July. September and October nearly similar to August, except that more potatoes and perhaps a little less milk were consumed. Bacon used instead of mutton, expenses £1 8*s.* ; November expenses may be stated at £1 10*s.*

December—	£	s.	d.
4st. oatmeal, at 1*s.* 10*d.*		7	4
1 bush. potatoes, 2*s.* 8*d.*; 3lb. of butter, at 8*d.*, 2*s*		4	8
62qts. milk, at ½*d.*, 2*s.* 7*d.*; 4lb. treacle, at 4*d.*, 1*s.* 4*d.*		3	11
1½pk. barley, 3*s.* 9*d.*; 1½st. flour, at 2*s.*, 3*s.*		6	9
8lb. mutton, at 3½*d.*, 2*s.* 4*d.*; salt, candles, soap, etc., 1*s.* 8*d.*		4	0
House rent, 2*s.* 6*d.*, fuel, 2*s.*, clothes, etc., 5*s.*		9	6
	£1	16	2
Total expenses	£18	18	5

Receipts	Workdays	at s.	at d.	Total £	Total s.	Total d.
January	25	1	0	1	5	0
February	24	1	0	1	4	0
March	26	1	3	1	12	6
April	26	1	4	1	14	8
May	26	1	4	1	14	8
June	26	1	4	1	14	8
July	26	1	6	1	19	0
August	26	1	6	1	19	0
September	26	1	4	1	14	8
October	26	1	2	1	10	4
November	26	1	0	1	6	0
December	24	1	0	1	4	0
	Total			£18	18	6

The above is a general statement of a labourer's earnings and expenses in the country, where fuel is to be procured at a considerably less expense than in towns, because the wife and children can often collect wood sufficient or turf or peat. Potatoes too are cheaper, because labourers are often permitted to set a few on the farm where they work. In the article of clothing great economy is used. The parents often make the few they possessed when married (clogs, shirts, shifts, etc., excepted) last till their children are able to earn their own maintenance, and in summer the children go without many articles of dress. It requires the most rigid parsimony to spare anything towards putting a child to school.

DERBYSHIRE

CHESTERFIELD contains about 500 acres. Rent of land not built on, £3 to £4 10*s.* an acre. The inhabitants

in 1791 were 3,987. 370 houses pay tax, 496 exempt. Inns, 52. Friendly societies, 10, with 80 members each on an average. One has its rules confirmed. Members of the society at the Nags Head pay 1*s.* monthly and 2*d.* for expenses. Members of two years standing are allowed 8*s.* a week for a year when sick, and 5*s.* a week afterwards. From £2 to £5 for a member's funeral. Members receive 6*d.* from each brother on the death of their wives. The society is governed by a president, and 1st and 2nd stewards holding office in rotation for a year. The society at the Old Angel is governed by a master, 2 wardens, and 12 assistants elected by the whole body. The master holds office one year, the elder warden succeeds, and then the younger warden, and a new warden is chosen every year. The 12 assistants, who hold office for a year, are nominated by the master and wardens. No person is admitted who belongs to two clubs or to one when the allowance is above 4*s.* a week. Sixpence is paid monthly and 2*d.* spent. Sick members receive 4*s.* weekly. Persons entering the army, navy, merchants or East India Company's service are excluded. The allowance for funerals is £1 to £3, according to the deceased member's standing. The town is tolerably well supplied with grain and other provisions. Usual prices: Flour, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* the stone; oatmeal, 2*d.* per lb.; mutton, 4½*d.*; veal, 4*d.*; beef, 4½*d.*; bacon, 7½*d.*; butter, 10*d.* for 16oz.; potatoes, 10*d.* per peck; eggs, ½*d.* each; wheat, 26*s.* to 28*s.* the load of 3 Winchester bushels; malt, 39*s.* 6*d.* for 6 Winchester bushels. A little oat-bread is used, but chiefly wheaten bread. Common labourers earn 9*s.* and 10*s.* a week; men at iron foundries about 14*s.* a week; stocking weavers 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; masons, joiners, etc., about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. The Poor are maintained partly at home and partly in a Workhouse, where there are at present 28, i.e., 12 children, 8 men, and 8 women. 25 receive weekly pensions and 10 occasional relief. Six house rents

are paid. The assessments in 1795 were raised at 2*s.* in the pound on the net rental, but the accounts were so indistinct that the yearly expenditure on the Poor could not be made out. There are a number of charities. The Workhouse is built in a good situation. is clean and sufficiently spacious, with 8 or more beds in each room, each filled with chaff and supplied with 2 sheets, a blanket and a coverlet. Mr. Howard when he inspected this house suggested some alterations for rendering the rooms airy, which have been adopted. The Poor spin lint and wool principally for household consumption. The men are sometimes sent out to work in the neighbourhood. Certificates are rarely granted. About 3 or 4 removals occur each year. The weekly diet is as follows: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage; dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, bread, beef, broth and potatoes; Monday, Thursday, puddings, sauce and beer; Tuesday, Saturday, bread, cheese and beer; Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, broth and bread; Monday, Thursday, pint of beer and bread; Tuesday, beer and bread. One stone of beef is allowed to 30 persons, 3oz. cheese to each adult. Wheaten bread, apparently very good, is used. The sauce is composed of water, vinegar and treacle, without butter.

DERBY consists of five parishes, as follows:

	Houses paying tax	Exempt
1.—St. Alkmund	181	63
2.—All Saints'	300	232
3.—St. Michael's	65	63
4.—St. Peter's	209	126
5.—St. Werburgh	228	170

There are 101 ale-houses, i.e. one house in every 16 in the whole town. Each parish except No. 3 has its own Workhouse, that of St. Alkmund being the best; it is airy, clean, and well provided with good bedding (feather) and other necessary furniture. The bill of fare in each case is as follows: Breakfast in all cases, and every day, milk pottage. Dinner:

	1.	2.
Sunday.	Butchers' meat, etc.	Beef, veal or mutton, with bread, potatoes and broth
Monday	Milk pottage, bread	Bread, cold meat, and broth
Tuesday.	As Sunday	As Sunday
Wednesday.	As Monday	As Monday
Thursday.	As Sunday	As Sunday
Friday.	Bread, cheese, beer	As Monday
Saturday.	Suet pudding	Suet dumplins

	4.	5.
Sunday.	Beef, broth, bread, potatoes, etc.	Butchers' meat, etc.
Monday.	Baked pudding with suet	Suet pudding
Tuesday.	As Sunday	As Sunday
Wednesday.	As Sunday	As Monday
Thursday.	Milk pottage	As Sunday
Friday.	As Sunday	Bread and Cheese
Saturday.	Dumplins and treacle sauce in summer; pease pottage in winter; sometimes bread, cheese and beer	Dumplins

Supper :

	1.	2.	4.	5.
Sun.	Bread & broth	Beer & bread	Bread & broth	Bread & broth
Mon.	Milk pottage	ditto	Bread & beer	Milk pottage
Tues.	as Sunday	ditto	as Sunday	as Sunday
Wed.	as Monday	ditto	as Sunday	as Monday
Thurs.	as Sunday	ditto	Bread & beer	as Sunday
Fri.	as Monday	ditto	as Sunday	Bread, cheese, beer
Sun.	as Monday	ditto	as Monday	Boiled beer, bread

The meat allowance, when given, is as follows :

No. 1. About 8oz. to each person.
No. 2. About 3lb. a week to each person.
No. 4. About 30lb. (bones included) divided among 40 persons.

The number of persons in St. Alkmund Workhouse is 36, of whom 6 are under 7 years, 8 between 7 and 12 who do a little work, and the rest chiefly middle-aged women. Those who can work are mostly employed in the silk and cotton mills, earn about 16*s.* a week, and get 2*d.* in the shilling for themselves. One of the out pensioners in this parish is a woman of 50 years of age, who paid £50 to the parish on condition of receiving a weekly allowance of 4*s.* The number of persons in All Saints' Workhouse is 53, of whom 9 are under 8 years, 15 from 8 to 14 who work at the silk or cotton mills, and

each earn from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. The others are mostly old and infirm. They work 12 hours a day, exclusive of meal times, and are paid 2½*d.* in the shilling out of their earnings. There are 39 persons in St. Peter's Workhouse, 15 under 12 years. Those who are able to work knit or spin for the use of the house, or are employed in the neighbouring silk or cotton mills, receiving 2*d.* in the shilling out of their earnings. In St. Werburgh's workhouse there are 24 persons. The average rent of land in Derby is about £3 an acre. There are several canals cutting in the neighbourhood, in which common labourers earn from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Children from 7 to 12 years earn from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week in the silk and cotton mills. Stocking weavers earn according to their ability and industry, from 6*s.* to 20*s.* a week. In the paper and china manufacture men earn from 10*s.* to 21*s.* a week. The prices of provisions on 16th May, 1795, were: Beef from 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 4*d.*; bacon, 8*d.*; butter, 9½*d.* to 10*d.*; potatoes, 1*s.* the peck; milk, 2*d.* the quart; flour, from 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.* the stone; oatmeal, 1*s.* 6*d.* for 8 lbs.; wheat, 9*s.* to 9*s.* 4*d.* the bushel; barley, 45*s.* the quarter; malt, 7*s.* 3*d.* the bushel. The twisting of silk is the ancient and principal manufacture in this town. There are 11 mills now at work, giving employment to about 1,000 people, mostly women and children. About 100 persons are employed in weaving stockings (both silk and worsted). There are three cotton mills, employing about 500 hands, including children; 50 persons work in a paper mill, and 60 in a porcelain factory. Brown wheaten bread is universally preferred here for common use, and those who can afford it often eat butcher's meat. Wheaten bread is supplied in the Workhouses.

WIRKSWORTH contains about 2,200 acres, 607 houses (36 ale-houses), and by estimation 2,800 inhabitants. 152 houses pay tax, 455 exempt. There are several lead mines in this township, in which a third of the

inhabitants work. About 220 in a cotton factory. Common labourers earn 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* a day; miners about 10*s.* a week; but wages are extremely irregular. Women earn 5½*d.* to 6*d.* a day spinning worsted, and 3*s.* to 5*s.* a week spinning cotton; children, 8 to 14 years, 1*s.* to 5*s.* a week. Overseers in cotton works, 12*s.* a week. Prices of provisions are: Flour, 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.* the stone; oatmeal, 2*s.* 4*d.* the stone; potatoes, 10*d.* the peck; butter, 9*d.* for 16oz.; milk from 1½*d.* to 2*d.* per quart; beef, 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 4*d.*; bacon, 7*d.* to 8*d.*; eggs, 3 for 2*d.* The average rent of land is about £2. It is mostly in grass. Tithe is compounded for at 3*s.* an acre, which is thought very low. There are 8 friendly societies, with about 85 members each. The Workhouse is an old building, not originally intended for the purpose; it is not in a good situation, but as far as its construction will permit, kept clean and airy. The following is the weekly diet: Breakfast—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday—Bread and broth; rest of the week—Milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday—Bread, broth, butcher's meat, potatoes, etc.; Monday—Baked puddings and treacle sauce; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—Bread and milk. Supper—Milk pottage and bread every day. On meat days the proportion is at 20 lbs. meat for 30 persons. The children are kept very clean, and are instructed in their catechism, reading, etc. Few of the inmates are able to work, those who are spin lint, tow, etc., for the use of the house. They are allowed one penny for every 7*d.* of spinning. The rooms are of various sizes, and contains 2 to 7 beds each. The beds and pillows are filled with chaff, and have 2 sheets, 1 blanket, and 1 coverlet. There are at present 28 persons in the house, 12 under 7 years of age. Subscriptions for the Poor last winter (1794-5) amounted to £60, which were laid out in purchasing coal, beef, and potatoes. The Poor in the Workhouse have oat bread, but no beer or cheese, except at Christmas. A sort of gruel called water

pottage, consisting of a small proportion of oatmeal, and a small onion boiled with water, was eaten with bread twice and sometimes thrice a day by many people in this neighbourhood. It was much used during the late hard season. The cost of such a meal was about 1½*d.* for each adult. Several small donations, amounting to £45 10*s.*, are distributed yearly among the Poor who do not receive any parish relief.

DEVON

Clyst St. George is 1¾ miles long and nearly the same broad, with about 150 inhabitants. 18 houses pay tax (one a double tenement), 28 cottages exempt. The men are wholly employed in agriculture ; the women make lace and spin. Farms are generally from £50 to £200 a year ; one of £400. There are no commons or waste lands ; the whole parish has been enclosed many years. Tithes are compounded for at 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the actual rent. Two pounds an acre seems about the average rent, but the landlord pays all Poor's Rates, taxes and repairs, computed at 5*s.* in the pound. Land tax about 2*s.* Price of provisions has greatly increased in the last two years ; the Poor cannot purchase meat at less than 4½*d.* or 5*d.* the pound ; wheat is 12*s.* per bush. Winchester measure ; butter, 13*d.* per lb. ; common cheese, 4*d.* per lb. Agricultural labourers in general receive 1*s.* a day and liquor ; few farmers give 14*d.* a day and liquor. During corn harvest meat is added. No labourer can at present maintain himself, wife and children on his earnings. All have relief from the parish in money, or corn at a reduced price. Before the war wheaten bread and cheese, and about twice a week meat, were their usual food ; now barley bread and no meat. They have of late made great use of potatoes. An industrious healthy man can earn 8*s.* a week by piece work on an average throughout the year. Labourers' children are often bound out apprentices at 8 years of

age to the farmers. Prior to the present scarcity a labourer, if his wife was healthy, could maintain two young children on his 6*s.* a week and liquor without any parochial relief. A very few years ago labourers thought themselves disgraced by receiving aid from the parish, but this sense of shame is now totally extinguished. The Poor are in general maintained by weekly pensions; some receive occasional relief.

South Tawton contains about 5,000 acres, and 2,500 inhabitants, chiefly employed in the serge manufacture. Nine-tenths of the women (all of the poorest class) are spinners, and are in constant employment. Their number is about 600 or 700. 73 houses pay tax, 200 exempted. Wages of agricultural labourers, 1*s.* 2*d.* a day. Spinners cannot earn above 6*d.* or 7*d.* A common labourer earns at £18 5*s.* a year; his wife about £9 2*s.* 6*d.* Prices of provisions: Butcher's meat, average 4*d.* per lb.; wheat, 10*s.* to 11*s.* per bushel; barley, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per bushel; milk, ½*d.* per quart; potatoes, 5*d.* per peck. Number of ale-houses, 4. Farms are small. Tithe compounded for. About 1,000 acres of waste land and common. The rental of the parish estimated by the parish officer at £3,500 a year, but a farmer, owning his own estate, of 40 years' experience, thinks it does not exceed £3,000. Two friendly societies, one for males, and the other for females, both with rules confirmed by the magistrates. The Poor are chiefly maintained by a parish allowance at home; a few reside in a small Workhouse. The clergyman distributes the money collected at church every month among the most deserving of the necessitous. The usual diet of labourers is milk and potatoes, barley or wheaten bread; occasionally a little bacon. The Poor's Rates in 1784 and 1785 were about £575; since then on an average, £800.

Tiverton is an irregular oblong, about 9 miles by 8, containing 7,096 inhabitants, 5,343 of whom are in the town, the rest in the parish outside the town; but in

the first decade of the eighteenth century it contained about 8,693, the reduction being due to the competition of Norwich stuffs and other woollens with the locally-made serge. There are at present (1796) about 1,000 looms, of which 700 are in constant work. About 200 combers constantly employed. There are more than 90 charities in Tiverton, including alms-houses, endowed schools, scholarships at the universities, loans to poor manufacturers and husbandmen, provision for the old and infirm, distribution of clothes and food among the Poor, etc., notwithstanding which the Poor's Rates have been regularly progressive, and in 1790 amounted to £3,204. The numerous Poor in Tiverton are maintained and employed in a hospital erected in 1704. In 1740 a large woollen manufacture was set up in the house, by a voluntary subscription of £1,020. It was, however, found to be so very disadvantageous, and so many losses were sustained by waste and keeping manufactured goods on hand without an opportunity of sale, that in 1741 the materials were sold and the manufacture given up. The buildings are erected on a good plan, and can accommodate 300 persons. The parish concerns were managed by the governors and guardians of the parish under the Act of 1698 till 1769, when the Hospital Act was laid aside, and the government of the Poor conducted under the general Poor Laws. The diet of the Work-house is as follows: Breakfast—Sunday—Bread and cheese; Monday, Thursday, Saturday—Bread and broth; rest of week—Bread, broth and cheese. Dinner—Sunday—Pease and beer; Monday, Saturday—Cheese and pudding; Tuesday—Bread, cheese and beer; Wednesday, Friday—Bread, flesh, bowl of vegetables; Thursday—Cheese, pease and beer. Supper—Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday—Bread and milk; Tuesday, Friday—Bread and cheese; Wednesday—Beer, bread and milk. Men get 6oz. of bread, Women 5oz., working children 4oz., other children 3oz.; other articles are proportioned in a somewhat similar ratio.

DORSET

BLANDFORD is estimated to contain 960 acres. In 1773 the population was 927 males, and 1,164 females. It is thought to have increased since that period. About 204 houses pay window tax, not more than 30 exempted. 20 ale-houses. Women and children chiefly employed in making thread and wire buttons for shirts, etc. Farms from £40 to £150 a year, average rent about £1 10*s.* an acre. Land tax at nearly 1*s.* 4*d.* in the pound. About 100 acres of common. Tithes generally compounded for. Prices of provisions: Beef, 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5½*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; pickled pork, 9*d.*; butter, 11*d.*; bread, 11½*d.* per quartern loaf; potatoes, 6*d.* per peck; milk, 1*d.* per pint in winter, ½*d.* in summer. Common labourers get 1*s.* a day without victuals, and in some instances since the late scarcity, 1*s.* 4*d.*; in harvest, usually 1*s.* 6*d.* One friendly society of 60 members, whose rules have not been confirmed. The Poor are mostly relieved in a Workhouse, which is in a good situation, and tolerably neat and convenient. There are 22 beds of feathers, flock and chaff in 3 rooms. Since Easter, 1794, the Poor have been under the direction of the parish officers, but previously they were generally farmed for 2*s.* 6*d.* a head weekly. There is no regular master or mistress, but two paupers have the care of the Workhouse, in the absence of the overseers. There are at present 36 inmates, 13 children, 6 men, and the rest mostly old women. Those who are able to work, and are not engaged in the business of the house, are employed in button making. 108 regular pensioners (most with families) have weekly allowances. Several others have occasional relief. The table of diet is as follows: Breakfast—Broth made with flour, onions, water, etc. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday—Meat and vegetables; other days—Bread and cheese. Supper—Bread and cheese. Each grown person is allowed on Sundays and

Wednesdays, ¾ lb. of bread, and other days, 1 lb. Two pints of beer are allowed daily. The weekly allowance of cheese is 1½ lb., or ½ lb. cheese and ¼ lb. butter. Children have a smaller allowance. The rapid rise of the Poor's Rates in this parish is generally attributed to the high price of provisions, the smallness of wages, and the consolidation of small farms, and the consequent depopulation of villages, which obliges small farmers to turn labourers or servants, who seeing no opening towards advancement, spend their wages as they receive them, without provision for old age, and if incapacitated by a short illness, fall on the parish. Many of these notions appear to be false, but the prevailing opinions of a countryside are worth noticing. It is said that there are now only 2 farms in Durweston, about 3 miles from here, which contained about 30 small farms 20 years ago. And what is more singular the town of Abbey Milton, which was formerly the central market of the county, is now a fish pond. There are several charities in the parish, under the direction of the corporation, and said to be wretchedly managed. In one alms-house 10 poor people receive each 2*s.* 6*d.* a week and clothes. In another 6 poor persons receive 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, with clothing and fuel. The following is a statement of the domestic economy of a labourer's family. The man, 52 years old, has a daughter of 18, another of 8, and 2 sons of 6 and 3. The eldest daughter manages the house since the death of her mother in August, 1795 (2 months previous to the report). The other children earn nothing. The house rent is paid by the parish, and during the illness of the wife he received a few shillings in occasional relief. He was allowed 4*s.* a week for a sick child, but upon its death the allowance was withdrawn. The usual breakfast of the family is tea, or bread and cheese, their dinner and supper, bread and cheese, or potatoes sometimes mashed with fat taken from broth, and sometimes with salt alone. Bullock's cheek is generally bought every week to make broth. Treacle

is used to sweeten tea instead of sugar. Very little milk or beer is used. For clothing both for himself and family, the man is principally indebted to his neighbours. He earned from harvest, 1794, to 7th March, 1795, 6*s.* a week. From 7th March till harvest, 7*s.* a week. About 4 weeks in harvest, 9s. a week. Total, £17 9*s.* 6*d.* At Wimborne, a small market town between Southampton and Blandford, the rates last year (1794), at 3*s.* in the pound, amounted to £900. This year (1795), it is expected they will exceed £1,200. Farms are from £100 to £1,000 a year. Wages rather higher than at Blandford.

DURWESTON contains about 800 acres. 10 houses pay tax, about 50 exempted. Provisions are rather cheaper than at Blandford. Wages till lately were 6*s.* a week; now 8*s.* and 9*s.* Much work is done by the piece, in which case the labourer generally earns the greatest wage. The farmers say their men earn 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week all the year round. Average rent of land 10*s.* an acre. Land tax usually paid by the landlord, at about 2*d.* in the pound. Tithes compounded for. There are some uncultivated downs, but no commons. Two ale-houses. Poor Rates have increased considerably. One farmer says that about 50 years ago the parish only paid 6*d.* a week to a poor woman who could scarcely be prevailed upon to accept it. The rise in the rates is assigned to the dearness of provisions, the consolidation of 40 farms into 2, and the introduction of a great number of labourers from different parts of the kingdom by Mr. Portman, the principal landowner, who is making alterations on his estate. Several of these labourers have acquired a settlement. The Poor are maintained by a parish allowance. Very poor persons have their rent paid by the parish. No friendly societies. Number of inhabitants nearly 300.

DURHAM

ST. MARGARET'S.—This chapelry in Durham consists of the townships of Framwelgate and Crossgate. It

contains 1,500 inhabitants. About 200 houses pay tax, 100 exempt. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in making moreens, stuffs and carpeting. Butchers' meat is on an average 4½*d.* per lb. Wheat in Sept., 1795, was at the enormous price of 12*s.* per bush. Labourers in the factories earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; in agriculture 1*s.* 4*d.* There are 7 ale-houses in Framwelgate, and 6 in Crossgate. One friendly society, to which no person is admitted who is disaffected to the Established Church or State; members meet every sixth week, spend 3*d.* in beer, and pay 1*s.* into the box. A sick member receives 6*s.* a week for 20 weeks; after that, at the option of the society. £8 are paid to the widow or nearest relation on a member's death, £2 to a member on his wife's death. Rent of land, from 10*s.* to 40*s.* an acre. Farms in the country are from £40 to £200. Tithes partly paid in kind, partly compounded. About 1,000 acres of common in Framwelgate; about 200 acres were enclosed in 1771 in Crossgate. The Poor in both parishes are contracted for: in the case of Crossgate at 2*s.* 2*d.* a week each. The bill of fare in the Workhouse is as follows: Breakfast—in summer, bread and milk; in winter, hasty pudding; dinner—meat and broth; since the late enormous price of wheat, no bread has been used; supper—bread and milk, or hasty pudding and treacle. The Poor's Rates in Framwelgate were about £100 a year 20 years ago; in 1795 they were £210. In Crossgate the Poor were maintained till 1795, at 1*s.* 8*d.* each, now at 2*s.* 2*d.*

St. Nicholas, Durham.—The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in the woollen trade. Prices of provisions are very high, and wages so low as to bear no proportion to them. Number of ale-houses, 22. There are 5 societies called life clubs, which allow £8 to the nearest relative of a deceased member, but the stewards deduct £3 for the funeral. The Poor are maintained in a Workhouse and partly at home. There was so great a reluctance in this city to give any information con-

cerning the Poor that this account is necessarily very imperfect. The Poor appear to be very numerous and very necessitous. Table of diet in the Workhouse: Breakfast, every day, hasty pudding and milk; dinner—Sunday, Thursday, boiled beef, bread and broth; Monday, Friday, broth and bread; Tuesday, suet pudding or dumplin; Wednesday, frumenty and bread; Saturday, milk boiled with wheaten bread; supper—every day, cold milk and bread or boiled. The following are the earnings and expenses of an ostler at one of the inns. He is 45, has 6 children, all boys, the eldest 10 years, the youngest 9 months old. Earnings: Man gets 9*s.* a week and his food. His wife earns 2*d.* a week by spinning. Total, £23 16*s.* 8*d.* Yearly expenses: Barley meal, £8 13*s.* 4*d.*; milk, £3 0*s.* 8*d.*; potatoes, £1 14*s.* 8*d.*; oatmeal, £2 3*s.* 4*d.*; tea and sugar, £2 12*s.*; soap, blue, etc., 13*s.*; butchers' meat, £2 3*s.* 4*d.*; salt, 4*s.* 4*d.*; house rent, £1; fuel, £1 6*s.*; lying-in, about 8*s.*; clothing and other expenses, £2 10*s.* Total, £26 8*s.* 8*d.* No butter or beer is used by this family. They occasionally receive a few old clothes from their neighbours, but do not ask relief from the parish.

Holy Island contains 1,023 acres and 330 inhabitants. Two small townships on the mainland, distinguished by the name Continental are included in the parish. This part contains about 3,000 acres and 361 inhabitants. It is all enclosed. 51 houses in the island pay tax. Two, three and even four families live under one roof. No houses exempt. In the Continental part 11 pay tax, 39 are exempt. Price of provisions, butchers' meat, 4*d.* per lb.; haddocks, 1*s.* per score; all white fish very reasonable; wheat, 5*s.* per Winchester bushel; flour, 2*s.* per stone of 14lbs.; oatmeal, 2*s.* per peck, or 16 qts.; butter, 8*d.* per lb. of 18½oz. The high prices of last year (1795) are not noticed. There are 13 fishing boats called cobbles in the island, 7 of which are employed in the white fishery in the summer. All go

lobster catching in winter. Four men go in a boat fishing for haddock, cod, etc. Three for lobsters. Some agricultural labourers and mechanics follow lobstering in winter. The season begins December 1st and continues till June 1st. A few years ago it was a very lucrative trade, but during the last two years December has been the only successful month, and the fisherman has been obliged to take to white fishing early in spring. A score of full-size lobsters fetched, till 1795, 7*s.*, now 8*s.*; agricultural labourers earn 1*s.* 4*d.* a day; masons, 2*s.*; joiners, 1*s.* 8*d.* On the island farms are small, but larger on the mainland. The rent of land is about £2 an acre on the island; on the mainland from 10*s.* to £1 13*s.*, but mostly £1 10*s.* On the Continental part there are 2 inns, in the island 5. Many families receive bathers to board during the season. The general weekly charge for each person, both in private and public houses, before last summer was 10*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of tea and sugar. Twelve shillings was demanded last summer. There is no house of industry in the parish. When the common was enclosed in 1792 and 1793, a small piece of land was awarded for a Workhouse, but there is no probability of one being soon built. Paupers in general have an allowance paid quarterly, at the rate of 1*s.* a week; some have 1*s.* 6*d.* and some 2*s.*

Monk Wearmouth is about 4 or 5 miles long, and about 2 miles broad. The parish contains 5 townships, and over 5,000 persons, a great many of whom are crowded in small tenements, containing only 2 or 3 rooms each. 274 houses pay tax, the number exempt could not be ascertained, but is probably double those chargeable. Many ships are built on the shores of the Wear; in the last war frigates and even ships of the line were constructed here, and there is now building a ship of 1,200 tons burden. There are 10 ship carpenters' yards in the parish. Much window glass is made here. There are 2 potteries, several ironworks,

and firestone and limestone quarries. Prices of provisions are in general higher than in Durham market, on account of the great stock required for victualling ships. Cod, ling, haddock, herrings and other fish are in great abundance here at various seasons. Agricultural labourers receive 14*d.* to 16*d.* a day, and at present rather more A good servant in husbandry is allowed, besides his board, from 12 to 14 or 15 guineas a year. Wages have much increased since the war. Farms in general do not exceed 100 acres. There is much pasture and meadow in the parish. The western part, being out of reach of manure, is poor. Rent of land, 10*s.* to £4. Tithes are generally in lay hands, and are usually let to the tenant. There have been no commons for several years. The Poor in many of the townships are in a miserable condition ; nor has any judicious plan yet been adopted for administering relief to them in a beneficial manner. In the Northern townships the rates have risen to an enormous height, particularly since the war began. Part of the rise may without imputing anything to mismanagement, be fairly ascribed to the great increase in trade population, buildings, and I hope I may add without being considered paradoxical, to the influx of wealth which this parish has experienced within the last 40 years.

South Shields.—The chapelry of St. Hilda is in the parish of Jarrow, and is on the South side of the Tyne. The town was formerly celebrated for its salt works, having once contained 200 large iron pans for boiling sea water. The trade began to decline in 1755, when the London market was lost, and now there are only about 6 or 8 pans. The town is ill paved and very dirty, due, it is said, to leasehold tenure under the church. The land round Shields scarcely contains a single tree. 550 families pay window tax ; the number exempt could not be ascertained. The population is supposed to be 15,000, but this is probably an exaggeration. They are chiefly engaged in trades relative to

commerce. The number of ships in North and South Shields exceeds 500. They average 200 tons and upwards. No river in England, except the Thames, can exhibit an equal quantity of shipping, but in winter the navigation is much obstructed by the number of ships laid up. There are 162 public houses in South Shields, but only one church, which was enlarged in 1786. Farms are small, and there are no commons except a few acres along the coast. The only manufacture in South Shields are 4 glass-houses. There are very few agricultural labourers. They earn about 2*s.* a day; carpenters, 3*s.* 6*d.*; glass-workers from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* Prices of provisions: Beef, 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 4½*d.*; veal and lamb, 4*d.* Four friendly societies, which allow £10 to £15 a year for life to the nearest relative of a deceased member. There are 6 life clubs which pay a single sum of £7 in a similar case. The Poor are contracted for by a respectable person, at 2*s.* 6*d.* weekly, for provisions and clothes for each person maintained in the House of Industry, as it is called. The number of inmates is 73. Table of Diet: Breakfast—every day, hasty pudding; dinner—Sunday and Wednesday, beef, etc.; Monday, Thursday, pease soup; Tuesday, Saturday, barley boiled in milk; Friday, suet dumplings. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, broth and bread; Monday, Thursday, boiled milk; Tuesday, Saturday, bread and milk; Friday, cold milk.

STANHOPE is about 17 miles long by 6 broad. Its population is about 3,600 souls, and is supposed not to have varied much for some years. 520 houses pay tax; the number exempt could not be ascertained. Prices of provisions are: Wheat, 13*s.*; barley, 6*s.*; oats, 4*s.* a bushel; beef, 5*s.* per st.; mutton, 4*d* to 4½*d.* per lb.; butter, 11*d.* for 21 oz.; new milk, ½*d.* per pint; old milk, ½*d.* per quart, wine measure; potatoes, 9*d.* per peck (6*d.* per peck at Michaelmas, 1795). Wages of common labourers from 7*s.* to 9*s.* a week, without board; masons, 14*s.* a week; when at work by piece they can earn from

16*s.* to 20*s.* a week. Miners also work by the piece, their earnings very fluctuating, from £5 or £6 to £50 or £60 a year. The average is about £25. 20 ale-houses. 2 friendly societies, with a membership together of about 80. The rules have been confirmed. Rent of land varies considerably from 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre to £3 10*s.* and £4. Average of good land, 45*s.*; of poor land, 15*s.* Farms from £5 to £300 a year, but chiefly from £15 to £30. Tithes chiefly taken by composition. Land tax about 3½*d.* in the pound. About three-fourths of the parish is mountainous common. The Poor have been farmed for many years; about 15 years ago for £250; in 1794 for £495; and in 1795 for £494. The contractor says he will lose by this sum and will not take the Poor again under £700. 22 Poor people at present in the house. 100 families receive out relief. The Poor-house, like most others in the hands of contractors, is dirty. The following bill of fare is the rule, but at present it is not observed owing to the dearness of provisions:—Breakfast, every day—Hasty pudding. Dinner—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday—Boiled meat, pudding, broth, etc.; Tuesday, Thursday—Flour pudding and milk; Saturday—Potatoes and butter. Supper—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday—Broth, bread and milk; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—Bread and milk. N.B.—Instead of boiled meat the Poor have now hashed meat with potatoes twice a week. The rates are about 1*s.* 4*d.* in the pound. Mining is said to be rather unproductive to those employed in it. Not so much metal is got as formerly, and the wages for getting a certain quantity of ore not more than many years ago, for which reason many persons have gone to work at the coal mines near Newcastle, Sunderland, etc. Many miners keep a cow, which makes rent of land high. They use much oatmeal made into crowdy, and milk and barley bread. Women spin jersey and can earn 3*d.* or 4*d.* a day. Many of them make their own woollen and linen apparel. Lead miners are less profligate, better clothed,

and better informed than coal miners. Statement of a miner's annual earnings and expenses. The man is 44, wife 42, eldest son 16, daughter 12; two other boys of 6 and 4. The man earns about £25 a year. The eldest boy £7. Total, £32. The others earn nothing. The wife takes care of the house, and spins lint. Expenses: Barley bread, £7 10*s.*; wheat and rye, £2 10*s.*; oatmeal, £5 4*s.*; butcher's meat, £2 10*s.*; milk, £1 10*s.*; potatoes, £1 8*s.*; butter, £2 10*s.*; tea and sugar, £2; groceries, £1 10*s.*; house rent, £1 10*s.*; fuel, £1 12*s.*; clothing, etc., £5. Total, £34 14*s.* The family receive nothing from the parish, so that the expenses must be near £3 over-rated. Statement of a mason's annual earnings and expenses. Man is 40, with a wife and 4 children, aged 12, 10, 4 and 2. He earns about £28. Expenses: House rent, £2; fuel, £2; barley bread and flour, £6 10*s.*; oatmeal, £3; milk, £1 10*s.*; butter, £1 10*s.*; cheese, 10*s.*; butcher's meat, £3; tea and sugar, £2; potatoes, £2; clothes, etc., £4. Total, £28.

SUNDERLAND contains 130 acres and (in 1794) about 13,000 inhabitants, but supposed to be much increased in 1796. The principal employment of labourers is coal heaving, i.e. putting coal out of keels into ships. No manufactories. Butcher's meat, 5*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; wheat, 12*s.* per bush.; oats, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; barley, 5*s.*; potatoes, 10d. per peck; new milk, 1½*d.* per quart. Sailors in time of war earn from £40 to £100 a year; in peace about £25 and board, while on a voyage. Keelmen at all times, about £30 to £50 a year; coal-heavers on the river in time of war, from £30 to £50; in peace, 10*s.* a week. Common labourers in the county 9*s.* a week. 187 ale-houses. 24 friendly societies, with an average membership of 50 to 60. Most have their rules confirmed. 4 or 5 are women's clubs. About two-thirds of the parish is common. The Poor are supported partly in a Workhouse, partly at home. There are 176 persons at present in the house. There are 36 children, two-thirds of them bastards, who are employed in a

pin factory. The boys are generally bound apprentices to the sea service. The remaining inmates are mostly old women and prostitutes. Few old men are found here, being mostly employed as scavengers, or picking oakum. The house is in a very good situation. Each apartment has 4 or 5 beds with wooden bottoms, and are filled with chaff. Each bed has 2 blankets, 1 sheet, and rug. A fever prevails now in the house, and has done so for some time back. The following is the bill of fare: Breakfast, every day—Hasty pudding and milk; Dinner —Sunday, Thursday—Beef and bread; Monday, Friday —Old milk and bread; Tuesday—Pease soup and bread; Wednesday—Rice-milk and bread; Saturday—Barley-milk and bread. Supper—Sunday, Thursday—bread and broth; Monday, Friday—Water gruel and bread; Tuesday—Boiled milk and bread; Wednesday, Saturday—Boiled milk or gruel and bread. The bread is made of wheat and rye. 6oz. are allowed to each person at dinner and supper on meat days, and on other days, ½ lb. at each meal; ½ lb. meat is served to each person on Sunday and Thursday. The victuals cost about £26 a week. About 279 poor families are supported at their own homes. An old man who is a shepherd on the common of this town brought up 10 children by his own labour without assistance from the parish or any one. To some of his boys he gave a decent education. His earnings were generally 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week, and he was chiefly employed in husbandry. Earnings and expenditure of a coal miner who lives a little distance from Sunderland. He is 45, his wife 40; he has 3 girls, 14, 6, 2. After deducting house rent and fuel (which is allowed to the master every fortnight), he earns about 23*s.* in the fortnight, or yearly £29 18*s.* He had given him last year £5 5*s.* Total, £35 3*s.* Expenses: His family has bread meal, consisting of wheat, rye, and barley allowed them at 1*s.* 6*d.* a stone by the owner of the coal mines. At the rate of half a stone a week for each person this amounts to in the year £9 15*s.* Butcher's meat, £5 4*s.*;

milk, £2 12*s.*; oatmeal, £2 3*s.* 4*d.*; tea, 8*s.* 8*d.*; sugar, £2 12*s.*; salt and pepper, 10*s.* 10*d.*; potatoes, 15*s.* 2*d.*; barley to boil with milk, 5*s.* 5*d.*; soap, 19*s.* 6*d.*; maintenance of wife's bastard born before marriage, £1 6*s.*; wear and tear of work gear, £2 12*s.*; clothes and casual expenses, £5 19*s.* 1*d.* Total, £35 3*s.* 0*d.* This man has been sometimes sick himself, had a boy died, and a former wife, but he has hitherto supported his family without any relief from the parish. No butter or beer is used.

TANFIELD is a chapelry in the parish of Chester-le-Street. It is near ten miles in circumference and contains about 2,000 inhabitants, mostly coal miners. Wages of labourers in husbandry are from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and of coal miners, 2*s.* to 3*s.* Farms are small. Potatoes are much grown, which now form the chief diet of labourers' families. The cheapness of fuel seems the cause why this very useful vegetable is more used in the north than in the south of England. Beef and mutton from 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb. Rent of land, 10*s.* to 50*s.* per acre. Common and waste lands amount to about 1,500 acres. No part has been enclosed. Here, as in other coal countries, the surface of the earth is neglected for the inside. It may be doubted, however, if the mines about Tanfield have of late been profitable. The rents of collieries have decreased and many have been shut up. Two paper factories employ about 10 men each. Number of ale-houses, 16. 130 houses pay tax, 270 exempt. There are about 20 Poor in the Workhouse. Other distressed families, which are very numerous, are relieved at home. Table of diet: Breakfast, every day—Hasty pudding, with milk or beer; Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday—Butcher's meat, with pease pudding or other vegetables; Monday, Thursday—Pease soup and bread; Tuesday, Saturday—Boiled barley and milk; Friday—Suet pudding and dumplins. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday—Broth and bread; Monday, Thursday—Milk, boiled with oatmeal; Tues-

day, Friday—milk and bread. The rates from 1780 to 1785 were 1*s.* in the pound; 1786 to 1789, 1*s.* 9*d.*; except 1788, at 1*s.* 6d.; since 1789, 2*s.* in the pound.

ESSEX

Colchester contains about 8,000 inhabitants. In the parish of All Saints 58 houses pay tax (6 being double tenements), number exempt not ascertained. Rent of land, about 22*s.* per acre. Land tax at 4*s.* 2*d.* upon net rental. A pecuniary composition, which is very variable, is paid in lieu of tithes. There are 75 ale-houses in the 16 parishes of Colchester. No commons in this parish. Price of provisions: Beef, 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton, veal, the same; pork, 6*d.* and 6½*d.*; bacon, 9*d.*; butter, 10*d.*; wheat, 80*s.* the quarter; barley, from 28*s.* to 41*s.*; malt from 44*s.* to 49*s.*; flour, from 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.* per st. The principal manufacture is baize, which is mostly exported to Spain. The trade is in a declining state, owing to the war between France and Spain. About 100 looms are employed in silk manufacture. Weavers earn from 8*s.* to 9*s.* a week; wool combers, 10*s.* to 12*s.*; spinners, from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day. Children 8 or 9 years old earn by spinning 2*d.* to 3*d.* a day; card makers, 2*s.* a day; women weavers, from 5*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* a week; agricultural labourers receive during harvest, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* a day; common labourers, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. There are 18 friendly Societies with 20 to 40 members each, who pay 1*s.* monthly into the box. Sick members receive 8*s.* to 10*s* a week, and aged members 6*s* a week. The parishes in Colchester were formerly incorporated for the purpose of supporting their Poor, but about 50 years ago they were disunited, and now each parish manages its own Poor. The rates are very different in different quarters of the town, for which no satisfactory reason can be given. In some parishes the Poor are maintained at home. In others, in the Work-

house. About £1,400 were collected in the winter of 1794-5 and distributed among the Poor in different parts of Colchester.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Bristol with its liberties is about 3 miles long and 2½ wide. Accounts of the population vary. One Bristol guide gives the population at 100,000 in 1794, another at 88,500 in 1793. The great increase in population which has taken place in the last hundred years has been chiefly confined to the out-parishes. About half of the city has been destroyed to make room for the market, the bridge, Clare Street, Union Street, etc., and as the new houses are larger and in many cases mere offices for brokers, insurers, attornies, etc., or warehouses for tradesmen who have gone to reside in the neighbouring villages, it appears that the population has declined in the last 20 years. There are many important manufactories in Bristol of which glass-making is the chief, there being near 20 glass-houses in and near the city. There are several works for lead, brass, iron and copper, and two larger floor-cloth factories. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; veal, 6*d.*; bacon, 9*d.* to 10*d.*; butter, 11*d.* to 1*s.*; potatoes, 6*d* per peck; bread, 4lb. for 1*s.*; wheat, 12*s.* per bush.; barley, 4*s.* 2*d.*; oats, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; coals cost about 3½*d.* per bushel; they are chiefly brought from the extensive mines at Kingswood, about 2 miles from the city. the colliers of which speak a jargon that is peculiar to them, and perfectly unintelligible to a stranger. The wages of labourers in the different factories vary from 7*s.* to 35*s.* a week; common labourers earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a day throughout the year, without victuals; from 10*s.* to 15*s.* appear to be the common earnings in a week. Children are employed in the cotton manufacture and earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a week. Number of ale-houses

in Bristol, 354. The Poor are managed by the Corporation of the Poor, and are partly supported in a Workhouse called St. Peter's Hospital, and partly by a parish allowance at home. The number of inmates is 350, of whom 63 are in a pest house belonging to the Workhouse. In 1794 the total was 390. The only work at present is picking oakum by which very little is earned. A few years ago a factory for spinning wool was set up, but after 3 years £600 was lost, and it was discontinued. The master says that the house was not built with a view to its present use. and is therefore not one of the most convenient. There are 12 or 15 beds, principally of flocks, in each apartment, for which reason probably, and on account of the number of old and diseased persons in it, the house is infested with vermin, particularly bugs. To a visitor there appears on the whole to be a want of cleanliness. Bill of fare: Breakfast—Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, water gruel; Wednesday, Friday, broth; Saturday, gruel. Dinner—Sunday, soup made of bullocks' head; Monday, Friday, pease soup; Tuesday, Thursday, meat and potatoes; Wednesday, Saturday, bread and cheese. Supper—every day, bread and cheese. 1lb. of meat and the same quantity of bread are allowed to each person on meat days. On Sundays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 6oz. of cheese are allowed for the two meals, and on other days 3oz. The Poor eat their victuals in their lodging rooms. The master of the Workhouse says 1,010 poor persons are on the out-pay bill, but he does not know what they receive.

Few cities possess such a number of public charities as Bristol. There are 30 alms-houses, in which 83 men and 230 women reside, with an allowance nearly sufficient for their support. There are several charity schools in which about 960 children are educated, and most of them clothed and maintained. The donations to the Poor are considerable, but the exact amount could not be ascertained.

Earnings and expenses of a labourer, about 50 years old: He has been about 2 months out of regular employment, but usually works at an inn, as horse-keeper, porter, etc. He has a wife and 2 children, one 5 years, the other 9 months. He receives 9s. a week, but no victuals, or annually £23 2s. His wife sometimes earns a shilling by washing, suppose annually £1. Total, 24 8s. His earnings are stated as though he had been in constant employment, but he says he has not earned a shilling a day for the last 2 months. Last summer (1794) he lost two children by small-pox, and the summer before he was sick for several months. He has never applied for parish relief, but has pawned his best clothes and has sold some articles of furniture to raise a little money. He has not been able to redeem the clothes. Weekly expenses: Bread at present, 4s. 6d. a week; meat, about 6d.; butter, ½lb., 5½d.; cheese, ½lb., 3d.; tea, 3d.; no sugar; potatoes, 2 pecks, 1s.; milk, ½d. a day for the child, 3½d.; beer (about 3 pints), 6d.; candles, soap, etc., about 5d.; onions, salt, etc., about 3d.; house rent, 1s. 2d.; fuel, 1s. Total weekly expenses, 10s. 9d.; yearly, £27 19s. This person appeared to be an honest industrious man, whose intention was not to deceive, but, as he never received parochial aid, his expenses must have been stated too high. He says he and his wife have spent but little on clothes since they were married, when they were tolerably well equipped. They are now in great want of this article, which they have no means of obtaining by their own labour.

The Poor of the out-parishes of St. Philip and Jacob, and of St. George, which contain about 16,000 inhabitants, are partly relieved at home, and partly in a Workhouse in which there are at present 85 persons. The number of out Poor is about 200. It is singular that here it is thought most beneficial to the parishes to maintain the Poor at home, and that the Poor want to get into the house. It is pleasantly situated and

appears to be clean and comfortable. There are 2 or 3 beds of flocks and feathers in each room. Bill of fare in the Workhouse: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, bread and cheese; Monday, rice milk; Tuesday, Friday, pease soup; Wednesday and Saturday, pickled beef and vegetables. Supper—every day, bread and cheese or butter. 3 pints of beer are allowed to each person on meat days, and a quart on other days. One lb. of bread is given out daily and 9oz. of cheese every week. Once a month 12lbs. of butter are distributed, and at particular seasons better fare is provided, more especially for the sick. Land tax in these parishes is 6*d.* in the pound. Number of ale-houses a few years ago, 150, now 80.

RODMARTON lies about 6 miles west of Cirencester. It contains 3,200 acres and 309 persons. 9 houses pay tax, 47 exempt. The men are employed in agriculture, the women in spinning, the children in carding. Labourers get 6*s.* to 9*s.* a week, except in harvest when they get somewhat more. They work from six in the morning till six at night in summer, and in winter during daylight. Their usual diet is bread and cheese, garden stuff and dumplins for dinner, and tea for breakfast. Prices of provisions: Cheese, 5*d.* per lb.; bacon, 7*d.* and 8*d.*; bread, 7lbs. for 1*s.* No ale-houses or friendly societies. Land tax at 16d. in the pound. Farms all large, only 8 in all the parish. No commons; an allowance of land instead of tithes was made when the parish was enclosed. The Poor are relieved at home.

STAPLETON lies about two miles north-east of Bristol, and has 1,377 inhabitants. There are 254 houses; 84 pay tax, 170 exempt, so that it appears there is very little more than 5 and two-fifth persons to a house. Day labourers earn from 8*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.* a week. Provisions are purchased in Bristol market. Farms are small and chiefly pasture. The common was enclosed in 1783, when half an acre was allotted to each cottage. There

is now no wasteland, and labourers find great difficulty in getting habitations, and when anxious to set up house have to migrate to other parishes. Land lets at from £2 to £3 an acre. Some of the Poor are maintained at home, some in the Workhouse. Bill of fare in the Workhouse—Breakfast—Sunday—6 oz. of bread, 1oz. butter, and beer; other days—Broth. Dinner—Sunday—Boiled beef, potatoes, bread and small beer; Monday, Wednesday, Saturday—6oz. of bread, 1½oz. of cheese, and beer; Tuesday, Thursday—Boiled beef, potatoes or carrots, and beer; Friday—Milk broth or rice. Supper, every day—Bread and cheese and small beer. The children's allowance of bread at dinner is 4oz. On Christmas Day and Whit Sunday the dinner is baked veal and plum pudding. There are in the house 3 men, 5 women, 5 children. In 1795, 5 men, 7 women, 8 children. The children are employed in spinning flax and hemp, but their earnings are very inconsiderable. There are 3 ale-houses, about 20 years ago 14 or 15. About 7 years ago only 7, four of which were suppressed soon after the King's proclamation. There are 2 friendly societies, one established on May 9, 1792, has 101 members; the other, established on Oct. 30, 1775, has about 50. In the former there is an entrance fee of 2*s.* 6*d.* and a payment of 1*s.* 2*d.* every four weeks, of which 2*d.* is spent in drink and tobacco. No member can receive any benefit till he has been a member for a year, after which he can draw 7*s.* a week if incapacitated from work for 12 months, when the allowance is reduced by half, and £6 burial expenses for a member and £3 for his wife. In the second there is no entrance fee, one shilling is paid every month, and 2*d.* spent. Members of a year's standing are allowed 7*s.* a week if incapacitated, reduced to 4*s.* after 3 months if there appears to be no hope of recovery. Members over 70, even if able to work, are allowed 4*s.* a week. Burial allowance for a member of one year's standing £3, and 1*s.* from each member to his widow. For a member's wife 30*s.* and

6*d*. from each member. Persons working at the White Lead House are excluded from both societies. An anniversary feast is held by both societies on Whit Monday, for which in the case of the first society elaborate rules are provided. About ten guineas were collected in 1795 for distribution among the Poor, which was divided among 88 applicants. It was at first proposed to confine the relief to parishioners, but the contributors very judiciously and humanely decided to make no difference between persons resident in the parish and those who had a legal settlement there.

HAMPSHIRE

GOSPORT is about 12 or 13 square miles. The rates are about 4*s*. 6*d*. in the pound. The great expense from soldiers' and sailors' wives becoming chargeable is a frequent topic of complaint in the parish. It should, however, be considered that the burden has not increased more rapidly than the means of supporting it. The artificer in the dockyard, the shopkeeper, and the publican, receive too much benefit from military preparation to have reason to complain that the number of the Poor increases; even the landholders are compensated by the advance of their rent, and the farmers by the increased demand which is thus produced for the various articles of consumption.

HAWKLEY, NEWTON VALENCE.—Hawkley is about 4 miles round and holds 259 inhabitants. Rent of land is from 8*s*. to 20*s*. an acre, average about 12*s*. Land tax amounts to about 3*s*. in the pound on the net rental. Tithe is let to the occupiers. No commons, or alehouses. Wages of labourers, 1*s*. 6*d*. a day. Newton Valence is about 10 miles round, and contains 228 inhabitants. Rent is from 5*s*. to 20*s*. an acre. Average about 9*s*. Land tax about 2*s*. 6*d*. Tithe mostly let to occupiers, the rest paid in kind. There are two commons, about 150 acres together. Wages of labourers,

1*s.* 6*d.* a day; one ale-house. No friendly societies in either parish. The parochial system of Newton Valence, since the heavy advance in the price of provisions took place, has been to permit each labourer, whether young or old, with or without a family, to purchase flour at 8*s.* a bushel; the extra price is charged to the Poor's Rate. A man with this allowance is supposed to be capable of maintaining a wife and 2 children, and paying his rent from his earnings; when the family exceed that number a proportionate allowance is made. The Poor are satisfied with this plan, and think their condition is not affected by the present high price of the necessities of life. The Poor's Rate is excessively high; 7*s.* in the pound on rack rent; but the farmers are more benefitted by the high price of corn than injured by the advance in the Poor's Rate. The average Poor Rate in Hawkley for the 16 years from 1750 to 1765 was £38 1*s.* 5¼*d.* For the 15 years from 1766 to 1780, £91 14*s.* 3 1-5th*d.* For the 15 years from 1781 to 1795, £170. For Newton Valence the average for the 17 years, 1726 to 1742, was £27 11*s.* 7½*d.* For the 17 years, from 1743 to 1759, £22 1*s.* 9*d.* For the 18 years, from 1760 to 1777, £60 9*s.* For the 18 years, from 1778 to 1795, £165 3*s.* 4*d.*

PETERSFIELD contains about 200 acres and 184 houses. Wages of labourers were 7*s.* a week in 1794, but have been advanced in 1796 to 9*s.* without board. In harvest men receive 2 guineas and a half a month, and their board. Prices of provisions: Wheat, 10*s.* per bush.; bread, 11*d.* the quartern loaf; beef, 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton from 5½*d.* to 6*d.*; veal, 8*d.*; bacon from 10*d.* to 11½*d.*; butter, 10*d.*; potatoes, 1*s.* per bush.; coals, £2 10*s.* per chaldron; new milk 1½*d.* per quart, old milk 2d. per gall. Rent of land, from £1 to £3; land tax about 3*s.* 4*d.* in the pound. There are 12 inns, no friendly societies. 2 existed some time ago, but as soon as the stock amounted to a few hundreds, the clubs were dissolved, and the money divided among the members. The Poor

are chiefly supported in a Workhouse, under the superintendence of a standing overseer, who has been in office 5 years. He does not reside in the house, but attends at meals, provides victuals, and collects the Poor's Rates. To his good management the reduction of the rates is principally ascribable. He pays every attention to the wants of the necessitous, and administers the concerns of the parish with fidelity and discrimination; notwithstanding this he is disliked by the Poor and several attempts have been made to burn his house The gentlemen, however, stand by him and approve of his proceedings. His salary is £30 a year. 22 persons, mostly old women and children, are in the house. They are principally employed in cleaning the street. In the winter there are 50 or 60 persons in the house. 9 families receive out relief. Table of diet: Breakfast, every day—Bread and milk. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday—Pickled pork, pudding and vegetables; Monday—Cold meat, etc.; other days—Bread and cheese. Supper, every day—Bread and cheese. Beer is allowed at dinners and suppers. Half a pound of cheese a week is allowed to each grown person. Bread is not weighed. Sometimes, instead of pork or bacon, a little coarse beef is bought for the Poor; broth is then used, but not when pork or bacon is boiled. The Poor's Rates have been as follows: 1784, 7*s.*; 1785, 8*s.*; 1786-7-8, 6*s.*; 1789, 9*s.*; 1790, 8*s.*; 1791, 7*s.*; 1792, 5*s.*; 1793-4-5, 6*s.*

PORTSEA (commonly called Portsmouth Common) contains near 15 square miles, and nearly encircles the small parish of Portsmouth. It has increased lately in wealth and population. Two years ago (1793) there were about 3,050 houses, but 100 or more have been built since then. Farms are from £200 to £300 a year. Rent from £1 to £3 10*s.* an acre. The Poor are principally maintained in the Workhouse; at present (Oct., 1795) there are 164 inmates, but the usual number in winter is 300, and has been known to

exceed 340. Their chief employment is picking oakum. The parish officers are frequently re-chosen, and some for several years, but with no salary from the parish. In general they belong to the dockyards, from whence they receive their wages, and are excused from working, in consideration of their serving a parish office. The Workhouse stands in a good situation, about a mile from the town, and is tolerably well contrived. There are from 2 to 6 feather beds in a room, and iron bedsteads. The house is kept very clean, and the Poor appear to live very comfortably. Those who use tobacco are allowed 2oz. each a week. Either meat broth or a sort of gruel called flour broth, made of flour and water, is their common breakfast. Dinner, 3 days in the week, consists of meat, and on the other 4 days, bread and cheese. Suppers are bread and cheese. Beer is allowed at bread and cheese meals only. Each adult person has 1 lb. of bread a day, and 8oz. of meat on meat days. Number of friendly societies 6, with 80 to 180 members each. Only two have taken the benefit of the late Act; the expense of attending an application to the justices is given as the reason why the others have refrained.

PORTSMOUTH.—The Poor here are chiefly maintained in a Workhouse, which is said to be neither well contrived nor well managed. There are about 170 inmates and about 40 out pensioners. A standing overseer was appointed in 1794, who has reduced the rates from 4*s*. 3*d*. in the pound to 3*s*. 6*d*. The parish generally insists on applicants for relief going into the house by which means the expenditure is much reduced, not because the Poor are maintained at a cheaper rate in the house than at their own homes, but because the apprehension of being obliged to mix with various descriptions of indigent people, usually found in a large Poor-house, deters many from making application. This is a great incitement to industry, and prevents many frivolous claims, but it seems to bear hard on the modest Poor, who are the most deserv-

ing objects of national charity. Both Portsmouth and Portsea complain of having a great number of casual Poor. The high prices of provisions is much felt among the labouring classes. The quartern loaf of wheaten bread costs 1*s.*; beef, from 6*d.* to 7*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.*; veal, 8*d.*; bacon, 10½*d.*; butter, 10*d.* to 13*d.* potatoes, 5*d.* per gallon; milk, 1*d.* per pint. Common labourers earn from 8*s.* to 9*s.* a week. All employments and occupations in any degree connected with the Navy are now actively exerted, especially in the dockyards, where there is a great demand for labour. Shipwrights receive standing wages of 6*s.* 6*d.* a week, but work double tides (i.e., double the work usually required) about two months in three, and are then allowed double wages. Besides this, they can earn about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week by watching in their turns at 1*s.* a night. Watermen at present have constant employment, but in peace are almost starving. Tailors, shoemakers and other tradesmen, more particularly publicans, are in full business. In short, war is the harvest of Portsmouth, and peace, which is so ardently wished for in most parts of England, is dreaded here.

Earnings and expenses of a labourer in the Dockyard: The man is 35, with a wife and 3 children, aged 11, 7, 3, who do no work. The wife earns a shilling every now and then. Her earnings may amount to 15*s.* a year. The man earns 15*s.* a week during one half of the year —£19 10*s.*; and 10*s.* 6*d.* a week during the other half— £13 13*s.*; by extra jobs, £3. Total, £36 18*s.*, less one week (15*s.*) for sickness, holidays, etc. Net total, £36 3*s.* Expenses: Rent, £6 6*s.* a year, but one room is let for 1*s.* 3*d.* a week, which reduces his rent to £3 1*s*; weekly expense of bread for the family, between 9*s.* and 10*s.* (av. 9*s.* 6*d.*) = £24 14*s.* Total, £27 15*s.* Surplus of earnings, £8 8*s.* The man could give no account of his other expenses, but says they do not exceed his earnings. Eight guineas, however, seems inadequate to provide five persons with other necessary articles

of food, fuel, clothing, etc. No milk is used in this family. They generally have breakfast on tea, and sometimes on bread and cheese. A joint of meat is provided once a week, but bread with a little cheese is their principal food.

SOUTHAMPTON contains about 4 square miles, one-fourth of which is common, and about 9,000 inhabitants. There is a mill for twisting silk which employs a few children, and a carpet manufacture, which works 4 or 5 looms, but no other manufacture. The number of houses paying tax could not be estimated, but it may be estimated at 700. Prices of provisions: Beef, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.* to 7*d.*; veal, 8*d.*; bacon, 10½*d.*; butter, 15½*d.*; bread, 1*s.* 1½*d.* the half-peck loaf; potatoes, 10*d.* a peck; coals, 37*s.* a chaldron. Wages of bricklayers, carpenters, etc., 15*s.* to 16*s.* a week. Common labourers, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* a day. Number of ale-houses, 30. One friendly society. The Poor are partly maintained in a Workhouse, partly at their own homes. At present (October, 1795) 120 persons in the house, of whom 50 are children under 14; the rest mostly old people. 18 children and 4 old men work at the silk mill.

Bill of fare in the Workhouse: Breakfast—every day except Monday, onion broth; Monday, bread and butter. Dinner—Sunday, beef and vegetables; Monday, broth and bread; Tuesday, pork and vegetables; Wednesday, Friday, bread and butter; Thursday, salt beef and vegetables; Saturday, bread and cheese. Supper—every day, bread and cheese or butter. Two cups of beer (near 3 pints) are allowed to grown persons, and a proportionate quantity to children. Rates, for the last 18 years, on an average 4*s.* in the pound on ¾ of the net rental.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—The Poor are chiefly relieved in a House of Industry at Newport, erected under an Act of Parliament passed in 1771, and amended by subsequent Acts. It is administered by 24 directors elected from

the members of the corporation or guardians of the Poor of the Isle of Wight, who consist of all landowners and leaseholders rated at £50 a year, heirs apparent to property rated at £100, all rectors and vicars, all occupiers of land or property rated at £100. Twelve additional guardians are selected from persons nominated by the parishioners of each parish, who hold office for one year. The work is divided among different committees. The by-laws require: 1, That all poor persons, single or married, without families who are unable to maintain themselves, be taken into the house, and not supported out of it by any settled allowance or pension; 2, that all poor persons whose families are too large to be maintained by their own labour, may offer one or more of their children to be received into the house, at the discretion of the weekly committee; 3, that the weekly committee, on the application of an overseer, may grant monthly relief out of the house, to the families of men impressed into the sea service, not exceeding 1*s.* 6*d.* a week for two children under 10; 2*s.* for 3 children, and 3*s.* for 4; 4, that when it shall appear to a weekly committee that labour in husbandry cannot be obtained at usual wages, on account of a general scarcity of work, the committee may order any reasonable sum, not exceeding one-fourth of the real earnings of such labourers, employed by its consent, to be paid by overseers to different persons employing them, so that such earnings do not exceed six shillings a week for each man, and so in proportion for others. And when such earnings do necessarily fall short of six shillings a week, merely on account of the unseasonableness of the weather (as in deep snow or hard frosts), the deficiency may be made up to that sum, for a man who has a family to maintain. Provision is made by other by-laws for providing spinning wheels, etc., for the use of the industrious Poor, and for the regulation of their diet, etc. In one of these the following bill of fare is pre-

scribed: Breakfast—every day, bread and butter; dinner—Sunday, boiled beef; Monday, pease with beef liquor; Tuesday, bread and butter; Wednesday, fresh beef soup; Thursday, bread and butter or baked pudding; Friday, potatoes or green pease or beans with fat bacon or pork, not exceeding 5olbs.; Saturday, rice-milk. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, potatoes; other days, bread and butter. This, however, has lately been altered, and the following substituted: Breakfast—every day, onion broth. Dinner—Sundays, beef cut small, the bones broken, and boiled into soup, and thickened with vegetables and bread; Monday, pork, greens, beer and bread; Tuesday, beef in soup thickened with rice; Wednesday, rice milk with butter and treacle; Thursday, pork with greens or potatoes, beer and bread; Friday, bread, cheese and beer; Saturday, pork and pease, no bread. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, potatoes, butter, salt and beer; Monday, bread, butter and beer; Wednesday, bread, cheese and beer.

The principal part of the building is 3ooft. long from east to west, by 27 wide in the clear, having windows on both sides for the advantage of a thorough draft of air; at the distance of 2ooft. from the west end, a wing from the main building ranges southward, 17oft. by 24, from the end of which are built workshops for the manufacturers and mechanics, and these with a walk on the west form a square of 2ooft. by 170. On the east side of the wing is a court, 17oft. by 50, formed by offices on the north, such as dairy, washhouse, brewhouse, woodhouse, etc. In the principal building is a large storeroom, steward's room, dining-hall, 118ft. long by 27 wide, and a common sitting-room for the impotent and aged. Under the east end there are cellars for beer, meat, etc. Over this are the governor's and matron's lodging rooms, the laundry nurseries and sick wards. In the wing on the ground

floor are the school rooms, apothecary's shop, kitchen, scullery, bakehouse, bread room, governor's and matron's sitting room and pantry; and over are the lying-in rooms, sick wards and 20 separate rooms for married men and their wives, with two common sitting-rooms adjoining for the old and infirm who are unable to go downstairs. In front of the principal building is a large gateway on the east side of which is a master weaver's room and spinning room, 96ft. by 18, with storerooms over it; at the west side of this gateway are the shoemaker's and tailor's shops, with a spinning room, 150ft. by 18, with weaving rooms and storerooms over. The chapel is on the north side of the principal building; over it is a storeroom. Four hundred yards distant is a pest house, with a burying ground, walled in, close adjoining. To the north of the pest house is a building for persons under inoculation. It consists of 4 rooms, 15ft. by 14. On the south is a large garden which supplies the house with vegetables. On the east behind the offices are the hogsties, barn, stable and other outhouses. The house can accommodate 700 people, but the number seldom exceeds 550. On Ap. 3, 1796, there were 86 men, from 20 to 90 years of age, cripples, blind, idiots, etc. 115 women, from 20 to 90 years; the younger part are blind, etc., or sent hither in cases of bastardy. 131 boys from infants to 13 years, among whom are many cripples. 163 girls from infants to 13 years, cripples, etc. The manufacture in the house consists chiefly in making sacks for coal, flour and biscuits, besides which lindsey, kerseys, etc., are made for the use of the house. The following summary of the receipts and expenditure of the corporation on the employment of the Poor for three consecutive years is taken from the accounts printed yearly :—

BELLINGHAM LABOUR PARTY
LIBRARY
SHAW,
LIBRARIAN,
128 FARMSTEAD RD. BELLINGHAM

		£	s.	d.
1792-3. Stock in hand July 13th, 1792		318	6	2½
Material bought and expenses of manufacture		335	5	8½
	Total	653	11	11
Goods sold		170	15	5½
Goods used in the house		212	17	4
Stock in hand July 25th, 1793		388	5	9½
	Total	771	18	7
	Expended	653	11	11
	Gained	118	6	8
1793-4. Stock in hand July 25th 1793		388	5	9½
Material bought with expenses of manufacture		276	9	1
	Total	664	14	10½
Goods sold		172	6	8
Goods used in the house		219	19	2
Stock in hand July 28th, 1794		368	4	10
	Total	760	10	8
	Expended	664	14	10½
	Gained	95	15	9½
1794-5. Stock in hand July 28th, 1794		368	4	10
Material bought and expenses of manufacture		181	17	0
	Total	550	1	10
Goods sold		218	4	3
Goods used in the house		191	11	6½
Stock in hand July 23rd, 1795		207	9	6
	Total	617	5	3½
	Expended	550	1	10
	Gained	67	3	5½

The following sums were gained, clear of all expenses, by the spinning of worsted:—1792-3, £74 17*s.* 0½*d.*; 1793-4, £72 10*s.* 3*d.*; 1794-5, £64 16*s.* 5*d.* In addition to the Poor in the house, there were 44 out-pensioners, receiving from 1*s.* to 3*s.* a week each. The number of casual Poor is very fluctuating and depends on the severity of the weather and other circumstances.

HEREFORDSHIRE

HEREFORD contains six parishes, with a population of 7,500. About 680 houses pay tax, the number exempt could not be ascertained. The number of inns or alehouses is 60. Six friendly societies, 5 of which have from 50 to 80 members each. The rules of all have been confirmed. One of them is chiefly for the benefit of members' widows, and has 250 members, who pay 26*s.* into the box every year. A member of 3 years standing, when sick, receives 6*s.* a week, and on the death of a member of 5 years standing, his widow receives £20 a year for life; £15 if he has been a member 4 years; and £10 a year if he has not been more than 3 years a member. The rules of this society are not printed. Price of provisions: Beef and mutton from 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; veal, 6*d.*; pork, 5*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; fresh butter, 1*s.*; salt butter, 10*d.*; wheat from 11*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* for 10 gallons; barley from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* for the same quantity; oats from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*; potatoes, 2*s.* the same quantity; milk, 1½*d.* the quart. Great complaints are made in this county against monopoly and forestalling. The labouring class, who usually bake their own bread, say it is extremely difficult to procure a small quantity of corn from the farmer, and that the millers and mealmen buy it in large quantities and exact a large profit from the consumers. About 12 years ago (i.e. 1783) the six parishes of Hereford agreed to maintain their Poor at a general Workhouse, and to allow as few out pensioners as possible. Each parish has power to send as many Poor into the house as it pleases, on paying a proportionate sum to their support. The Workhouse rent is £26 a year; master's salary, £26 a year and ¼ of the Poor's earning. The house is a good one and in a good situation. The beds are of flocks and kept tolerably clean. 56 persons are in the house at present (Nov., 1795), chiefly old people and children, who are employed in

spinning mop yarn and carding wool for saddles; a few work out of the house. The master says the earnings are about £50 a year. The weekly charge of a pauper in 1794 was about 4*s.* 6*d.* The contract between the parishes expires at Christmas, 1796, when it is generally supposed that the union will be dissolved, and every parish support its own Poor. Table of diet in the Workhouse: Breakfast—Sunday—Water gruel and bread; rest of the week—Broth and bread; Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Beef and vegetables; other days—Bread and cheese. Supper, every day—Bread, cheese and beer. About 7oz. of beef are allowed each person. At bread and cheese meals about 6oz. of bread, 1½oz. of cheese, and a pint of beer are allowed.

HERTFORDSHIRE

St. Albans consists of 3 parishes. 268 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions: Beef from 5*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.*; veal, 7*d.*; butter, 1*s.*; bacon, 10*d.*; milk, 2*d.* a quart; bread, 11¾*d.* the quartern loaf. The common wages are 7*s.* a week, and a meal in winter; 8*s.* in summer. In hay harvest, 9*s.* a week, and during corn harvest, 40*s.* a month. There is a mill here for spinning candle wicks, in which several children are employed, and earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. There are 42 ale-houses, and 2 friendly societies, containing about 100 members. Rent of land, about 50*s* an acre. Land tax paid by landlord, about 3*s.* 8*d.* on net rental. Tithes compounded for. The Poor have generally been farmed, but during part of 1793, and in 1794, they were managed by the parish officers; since then they have been farmed for £400 a year. The contractor finds food, clothes, fuel, etc.; the parish provides the house and furniture, which the farmer is bound to leave in good condition. At present (Sept., 1795) there are 39 inmates in the house (10 old women, 7 men, 22 children). To 15 out pen-

sioners he pays 18*s.* a week, and gives occasional relief to casual Poor. In the course of 1794 there were at times 70 or 80 in the house. The farmer asserts he lost £100 by his bargain. The house is kept in very good order, the Poor being mostly employed in straw work and mop making. No account is kept of their earnings. £50 are annually distributed in money to 20 poor persons, and a few other small donations are given away in bread. Table of diet in the Workhouse: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—Gruel; other days—Broth or gruel. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Meat pudding, etc.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday—Cold meat; Saturday—Bread and cheese. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Bread and beer; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday—Bread and cheese. Every grown person receives a pint of small beer at dinner and supper, and is allowed to eat till he is satisfied.

CHIPPING BARNET has a large tract of land belonging to it. 120 houses pay tax. Land tax is collected at 3*s.* 4*d.* in the pound. The parish officers wholly refused to give any information whatever respecting the Poor or assessments, but from information supplied by a parishioner it appears that the Poor are farmed at £23 a month and that the Poor's Rate is generally from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. If this account is correct, farming the Poor keeps down the rates.

REDBOURN is situated on the North Road and contains by estimation 4,000 acres. No account of the population could be obtained. 107 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions the same as in Markgate Street. Common wages of labourers in winter and summer are 7*s.* a week; this spring (1795) they were raised to 8*s.* a week without board. In hay-time they are 9*s.* a week, and in harvest 40*s.* a month with board. Much piece work is done here. Ale-houses, 15; friendly societies, 3. Average rent of land, £1; meadow land, £3; arable, 15*s.* per acre. Farms from

£15 to £220 a year. Tithes compounded for at about 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. Land tax at 9½*d.* in the pound, paid partly by landlord and partly by the farmer. About 40 acres of common. The rates from 1783 to 1790 were at 2*s.*, except in 1781, at 2*s.* 2*d.*; 1791, 2*s.* 3*d.*; 1792, 3*s.*; 1793, 1*s.* 9*d.*; 1794-5, 2*s.* 6*d.* The Poor have been farmed many years; for some years back they were farmed for £26 a month; in 1794 a person contracted for three years at £25 a month, but on account of the late dear season the parish allowed him an addition of £3 a month, which was intended to be taken off after harvest. The parish rents a house and furniture; the farmer provides fuel, victuals and clothes, etc., for those in the house, and give pensions to those whom he can support at a less expense out of it. There are now 30 Poor in the house, mostly children, principally employed in straw work; 22 out pensioners receive 30*s.* a week. The farmer says he is not bound to give the Poor any particular diet, but generally observes the following bill of fare: Breakfast, every day—Broth or gruel. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday—Meat pudding, etc.; Monday, Thursday—Cold meat; Tuesday, Saturday—Bread, cheese and beer. Supper, every day—Bread, cheese and small beer. Re-building the Workhouse and vestry room partly occasioned the increase in the rates in the last 4 years.

KENT

Ashford is on the borders of the weald of Kent. It contains about 2,000 acres, 320 houses, and 2,000 inhabitants. The rental of the parish is estimated at £4,000 a year. Land tax about 5*s.* 8*d.* in the pound on the half rental. Rectorial tithes are taken in kind. Vicarial tithes compounded for, on the average of 15*d.* an acre. Hops pay 10*s.* Labourers are paid 1*s.* 8*d.* a day in winter, 2*s.* in summer. A market has recently been established, and proved of great service to the

small farmers, who were formerly at the mercy of the butchers, but now find a ready market, even for a few sheep, or a pig or two. An annual fair for wool was established in 1794, and promises to prove of great utility. Till then all the wool in Romney Marsh was sold at once, at the same price, without the smallest regard being paid to the goodness or badness of its quality. Now comparisons are made at the fair, and various prices are given according to its excellence. Ashford has been paved substantially and satisfactorily at not more than double the expense of what an Act of Parliament for this purpose usually costs. The inhabitants fortunately were unanimous. There is very little turnpike road in the parish. About 7 years ago (1788) the high roads were execrable, but are now excellent, in consequence of individuals paying great attention to the repairs of such part as are contiguous to their houses. The cost for the highway has never been higher than 9*d*. in the pound. Parochial business is managed by a committee of the principal inhabitants, one of whom attends daily at dinner in the Workhouse. Some Poor are maintained at home, others in the Workhouse, where there are 60 at present. They are chiefly employed in a bleachery recently established for bleaching Irish linen, and earn about 1*s*. a week. The allowance to out poor does not exceed 1*s*. a week to a single person, 2*s*. to two in a house, and 2*s*. 6*d*. to a family. About 2 removals every year. Very few certificates. One friendly society, chiefly for the benefit of widows of deceased members. Poverty is generally ascribed to the low rate of wages and high price of provisions. They suit each other very well in summer, but not in winter. The Poor in most parts of Kent ten years ago always ate meat daily. Now they seldom taste it in winter, except in a Poor-house. Private brewing, even among small farmers, is at an end ; the Poor drink tea at all their meals, which, with bread, potatoes and cheese, constitutes their chief diet. Labourers only eat barley or oat-bread. Even household

bread is scarcely ever used ; they buy the finest wheaten bread, and declare (what may be much doubted) that brown bread disorders their bowels. Bakers do not now make, as they formerly did, bread of unsifted flour. At some farm houses it is still made of flour as it comes from the mill, but this practice is going much into disuse. Twenty years ago scarcely any other than brown bread was used.

CHALK contains about 1,700 acres and 230 inhabitants. 15 houses pay tax, 27 exempt, of which 6 are double tenements. Prices of provisions : Beef, 6*d*. per lb. ; mutton, 6*d*. ; pork, 6*d*. to 8*d*. ; bread, 14½*d*. the quartern loaf ; potatoes, 8*d*. to 2*s*. per bush. Labourers get 2*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. a day. By the great they often earn 2*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*. 6*d*. a day. Wages have advanced within the last 3 years at least one-fifth. 3 ale-houses. Usual diet of labourers is best wheaten bread, butter, cheese, and meat. Rent from 10*s*. to 15*s*. an acre. Farms from 60 to 300 acres. Tithes taken in kind. Vicarial tithes by composition. Land tax about 2*s*. 3*d*. in the pound on net rental. The Poor are mostly farmed in a Workhouse with Northfleet. Employers have assisted labouring people by selling corn at a low rate, etc.

GREAT CHART is in the Weald. There is no manufacture here now, but 300 years ago the woollen manufacture was very considerable. Arable land lets at 8*s*. to 10*s*. an acre. Pasture from 16*s*. to £1. Tithe is compounded for. No friendly society. Poor's Rate at 3*s*. 6*d*. in the pound on the full rental The Poor are maintained partly at home, partly in a Workhouse. The parish officers expect a labourer to maintain 3 children. They allow 1*s*. a week for every child beyond 3, or permit the parents to send it to the Workhouse. Agricultural labourers receive 1*s*. 8*d*. a day in winter, 2*d*. in summer. They earn all the year round about 11*s*. 6*d*. a week on an average. In the adjoining parish of Little Chart the Poor's Rates were 7*s*. in the pound in 1793, and 6*s*. in 1794.

COBHAM contains 2,949 acres and about 560 inhabitants. 40 houses pay tax (5 double tenements), 29 exempt. Labourers' wages for many years were 18*d.* a day. In 1795 they were advanced to 20*d.* and in 1796 to 2*s.* a day. The wages of woodcutters and others who work by the piece have lately advanced one-sixth. Rent varies from 5*s.* to £1 1*s.* Land tax, about 2*s.* 9*d.* in the pound. Tithe of corn is taken in kind, all other produce is compounded for. Farms from 40 to 400 acres. 3 ale-houses. One friendly society with about 75 members the rules of which have been confirmed. Provisions usually follow the price of London markets: Bread, 15*d.* the quartern loaf; cheese, 5*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; salt butter, 10½*d.*; beef and mutton, 6*d.*; pork, 7*d.* per lb. The usual diet of labourers is bread, butter, cheese, pickled pork and a little butcher's meat. Potatoes are a principal diet in large families. Wheaten bread of the best quality is generally used here. Milk is very scarce.

HOTHFIELD contains about 1,244 acres and 400 inhabitants. 40 houses pay tax, 10 are exempt. Agricultural labourers earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in winter, and 2*s.* in summer. A boy of 14 can earn 1*s.* a day throughout the year. Women usually earn 8*d.* a day, except in summer, when they get 10*d.* a day for haymaking, etc. An industrious woman may earn 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a day, picking hops. Average rent of land, 16*s.* Tithes compounded for. One ale-house. A decent brick cottage with a garden and right of common lets for £3 10*s.* a year. The Poor are relieved at home. Half the labouring Poor are certificated persons from other parishes. The common, which affords them the means of keeping a cow or poultry, is supposed to draw many Poor into the parish. The inhabitants are generally healthy, but agues are common in winter, ascribed to low diet. Bread is the chief food of labourers. In winter they usually eat meat about twice a week. They seldom can afford to drink beer, and

its place has generally been taken by tea at every meal.

MEOPHAM is supposed to contain 5,697½ acres, and 117 families (612 persons), 34 single and 14 double houses pay tax. Prices of provisions: Beef, 6*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6½*d.*; veal, 7½*d.*; wheat flour much the same price as in London. Labourers' wages were raised about May, 1795, from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* a day; threshing corn is usually paid at so much a quarter. According to Boys' General View of the Agriculture of Kent, the usual rate in that county was 2*s.* to 3*s*, but in 1795, on account of the badness of the crop, some farmers paid 10*s.* a quarter. There are 4 ale-houses in the parish and 1 friendly society with 60 members, who pay 4*s.* quarterly, and receive in time of sickness, or in cases of accident, 7*s.* a week. The society has £150 out at interest; their rules have been confirmed by the magistrates. Rent of land, 5*s.* to 30*s.* an acre. Tithe of corn is taken in kind, but vicarial tithe is compounded for. Farms usually are small. Not more than 6 acres of common. Casual Poor are relieved at home, orphans and aged persons are provided for by the overseer in a Poor-house in which there are at present 6 aged persons and 11 children. Their diet is generally broth or milk for breakfast, beef for dinner, and bread and cheese or butter for supper every day. The expense, about 3*s.* a week for each person. A labourer earns at this time 12*s.* a week all the year round = £31 4*s.*; add 3*s.* a week for the harvest month = 12*s.*; add 1*s.* 6*d.* a week the other 5 summer months = £1 10*s.* Total, £33 6*s.* A boy, aged 10, earns 6*d.* a day; at 12 9*d.*, at 14 1*s.*, at 16 1*s.* 6*d.*, at 18 2*s.* Women earn from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day. The usual diet of labourers consists of bread, cheese, butter, pudding, and sometimes beef or mutton.

WESTWELL is on the borders of, but a little out of the Weald of Kent. The Poor's Rate for the last 5 years have amounted to an average of 4*s.* in the pound. The Poor are maintained at home; for three years

they were employed in a Poor-house in weaving, etc. This did not answer, and the house has lately been discontinued. The Poor are not well managed in this parish. The general diet of the Poor in the Weald is bread, milk, potatoes, tea and cheese; little or no milk is used; very little beer, and no butter. Rents have not increased much since the Revolution. In Hothfield, however, they are supposed to have risen about a fifth in the last 20 years. In Romney Marsh they have doubled since the Revolution.

LANCASHIRE

Bury is supposed to be 3½ miles long by 1 mile broad. 325 houses pay tax. Number exempt not ascertained but probably greater. The inhabitants are employed in the cloth and cotton manufacture, principally the latter. Prices of provisions: Beef, 3½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; pork, 5*d.*; bacon, 8*d.*; fresh butter, 1*s.*; salt butter, 8*d.* to 10*d.*; potatoes, 6*s.* 6*d.* for 253lbs.; skim milk, 1½*d.* per qt.; new milk, 3*d.* per qt. Manufacturers and other labourers are better paid than at Manchester; 16*s.* a week are considered moderate. But wages in woollen are much lower than in cotton manufacture. Women by spinning wool do not earn more than 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week. Common labourers receive 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Common mechanics from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day. According to Holt's General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lancaster, wages of labourers have almost doubled between 1761 and 1791. There are 29 ale-houses in Bury and 9 friendly societies of men, with about 100 members each on an average, and one for women, which was set on foot about 2 months ago (i.e., October, 1795), and contains 35 members. The society is governed by a master, 2 stewards and 2 assistants, chosen annually from the husbands and fathers of

the women members. The entrance money is 2*s.* 6*d.* to the fund, 4*d.* for articles, and 2*d.* to be spent. The subscription to be paid at the quarterly meeting is 1*s.* 6*d.* to the box and 2*d.* to be spent. Every member of 2 years standing receives 10*s.* 6*d.* from the box on her lying-in, and 1*d.* from each member to be paid at the next quarterly meeting after her delivery. If, however, she remains sick after her month, she is entitled to the same relief as other sick members, i.e., 4*s.* weekly during the first 3 months of illness, 3s. a week for the next 3 months, and 2*s.* a week during the remainder of her incapacity. Such members receive two guineas on the death of a husband, but cannot receive this more than once ; on the death of such a member her relatives are allowed two guineas towards her funeral expenses, and if she has not received the money for the death of her husband, four guineas, to which every member must contribute 6*d.* If the stock, having once amounted to £20, should fall to £10, the quarterly payments are to be raised to 2*s.* till the stock amounts to £20. No person under 16 or over 35 can be admitted a member. Rent of land is 32*s.* an acre on the average. Land tax about 1¼*d.* in the pound on the net rental. Tithes partly taken in kind, but chiefly compounded for. Farms usually from £14 to £30 a year, and are usually let in small lots to enable labouring manufacturers to keep a cow or two. There are no commons. The Poor are supported partly at home, partly in a Workhouse, where there were in December, 1795, 37 persons of whom 16 were children, 3 young women and the rest old and infirm. Six of the boys are at work at a cotton printer's, and earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a week. The earnings of the others is trifling. The house is in an open airy spot about a mile from the town. The beds are of flock and are tolerably well provided with covering. There are 6 or 7 in each room, and upon the whole the house seems clean and neat. The diet is regulated according to the discretion of the

master, but the usual bill of fare is: Breakfast—every day, oatmeal pottage or hasty pudding, bread and beer. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, bread, broth, beef potatoes, etc.; other days, bread, butter and potatoes. Supper—hasty pudding as at breakfast. In summer milk is supplied with hasty pudding, in winter treacle. Bread and boiled milk is sometimes substituted for hasty pudding. The parish of Bury contains 5 townships. About 1788 the town of Bury contained 3,700 inhabitants, the township of Bury 4,500, and the 5 townships 17,000. The population has much increased since then. In 1773 there were 463 houses in Bury, 464 families and 2,090 inhabitants (about 4½ persons to a house). The rate in 1794 and 1791 was 3*s.* in the pound, said to be on half-rental, but in several instances at not more than one-third of the fair rental.

LANCASTER is about a square mile and a half in extent, with a population of about 8,000. Houses paying tax 612, number exempt not ascertained. Shipbuilding is carried on here to a considerable extent, and various articles of upholstery are made for cabinet makers in London. Common labourers earn from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, masons 3*s.*, carpenters 3*s.* Prices of provisions: Beef, 3½*d.* to 4½*d.*; mutton, 4*d.* to 5*d.*; veal, 4½*d.* to 5*d.*.; pork, 6*d.*; bacon, 8½*d.*; butter, 10*d.*; milk, 1*d.* per pint; wheat, 4½*d.* bush. for 48*s.* 6*d.*; barley, 4*s.* 6*d.* a bushel; oats, 7½*d.* bush. for 20*s.*; potatoes, 1*s.* 8*d.* per bush.; coals, 1*s.* per cwt.; oatmeal, 6lbs. for 1*s.* Farms mostly in grass, and from £20 to £50 a year. Rent about £2 to £6 per statute acre. Land tax about 1½*d.* in the pound on the net rental. Tithe of corn is taken in kind, that of hay compounded for at 5*s.* an acre. About 200 to 300 acres of commons, of which a small part (about 14 acres) has been enclosed for the Workhouse. 74 ale-houses The Poor are supported partly at home and partly in a Workhouse, where there are 57 inmates,

mostly old women and children. They are employed in picking cotton, one woman spins silk, and one labourer goes out to work. He gets 12*s.* a week, more than is earned by all the other paupers in the house. The Workhouse stands on an elevated healthy situation on the common. In each room there are 2 beds, partly filled with chaff, and partly with straw. Neatness and regularity are much attended to. Four cows are generally kept, from which near £20 are annually made by the sale of butter, none of which is used in the house, except for the sick and the governor and governess. The average number in the house is 55 to 60. About 120lb. of beef are consumed weekly in the house. It is said that in 1740 there were 10 persons in the house. The bill of fare is occasionally altered by the master, but the following is usual: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, bread, broth, beef and vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, broth, bread and hashed meat; Saturday, a sort of hash made of the meat unconsumed in the week, and butter milk. Supper—milk pottage every day. This is the general summer diet, and at other times while they have plenty of milk; when it is scarce the Poor have 3 broth breakfasts and 4 milk pottage breakfasts a week, and hasty pudding for supper every night. Oatcake leavened is the common bread in Lancashire. It is preferred to any other. Very little cheese is consumed in labourers' families. Their breakfast usually consists of milk pottage or hasty pudding, here called water pottage. Dinner is of potatoes with a little butter and salt. Fish, bacon, or butcher's meat are added according to the season and circumstances of the family. In Lancaster there are 18 friendly societies.

Name of Society	Date of Institution	No. of members	Expenses in relief of sick in 1795 £	s.	d.	
1. The Good Intent	3 Mar., 1788	90	41	1	6	
2. Friendship and Unity	1 Jan., 1789	109	9	1	0	
3. Unity	4 Feb., 1789	90	47	16	0	(1)
4. Unanimous	1 Jan., 1789	70	5	17	0	
5. Loyal Union	8 April, 1793	60	3	0	0	
6. Provident	21 Jan., 1794	58		nil.		
7. Benevolent	22 Mar., 1767	176	53	12	0	(2)
8. Friendly	6 Nov., 1777	173	108	19	2	(4)
9. Union	4 Mar., 1782	160	81	15	4½	(4)
10. Humane	2 June, 1783	125	66	4	6	(2)
11. Amicable	5 Aug., 1783	119	31	16	0	
12. Brotherly	6 Dec., 1784	82	13	3	0	
13. Samaritan	17 Dec., 1787	224	32	1	2	
14. Female Benefit Benevolent	2 Sept., 1792	50	2	4	10½	
15. Female Benefit Benevolent						
16. Female Amicable	4 June, 1792					
17. Female Sisterly	25 June, 1792					
18. Female Friendly	3 July, 1792					

The figures in brackets refer to the number of funeral benefits paid in the course of the year. The following payments and benefits are in force in the following societies :

Name	Monthly Payments	Weekly Benefits	Duration	Reduced to	Funeral Benefit	Entrance Fee	Age of Admission
Loyal Union	1*s.* 2*d.*	10*s.*	10 mths.	4*s.*	£10	3*s.* 6d.	18 to 36
Friendly	1*s.*	7*s.*	12 mths.	3*s.* 6*d.*	£3	varies	20 to 35
Female Benefit	9*d.*	5*s.*	12 mths.	2*s.* 6*d.*	£5	—	18 to 36
Female Sisterly	9*d.*	6*s.*	12 mths.	2*s.* 6*d.*	£5	—	18 to 36
Female Friendly	1*s.*	7*s.*	—	—	£8	3*s.*	18 to 36
Female Amicable	8*d.*	—	—	—	£8	—	
Female Benevolent	9*d.*	5*s.*	—	—	—	—	18 to 36

In the case of the last three societies nothing is allowed for liquor on club nights.

LIVERPOOL.—The parish contains 2,102 acres, and in 1773 the population was 34,407 ; in 1790, 55,732, of whom 6,780 lived in cellars, and 1,220 in the Workhouse. It is estimated that in 1794 the population was about 62,300. The number of houses subject to window tax is estimated at 5,100, those exempt at about 4,000. The number of inns and ale-houses is 917, so that every tenth

house at least is a public house. The magistrates, however, are certainly extremely attentive to this branch of police, and reduce the number of unnecessary houses whenever a fair opportunity occurs. It is said that a few years ago there were 1,500. Very little information could be obtained relative to friendly societies. Their number is about 12, with a membership of 80 to 100. In one case members meet once a fortnight, spend 3*d.*, pay 1*s.* into the box. Members of 2 years standing draw 15*s.* a week when ill; superannuated members 8*s.* a week for life. From £10 to £20, according to time a man has been a member, are paid on his death. The Poor are partly maintained in the Workhouse, and partly relieved at home. The house is well situated on a rising ground in a detached situation, and is in many respects constructed upon an eligible plan. The old people in particular are provided with lodging in a most judicious manner. Each apartment consists of three small rooms, in which are the fire-place and 4 beds, and is inhabited by 8 or 10 persons. These habitations are furnished with beds, chairs, and other little articles of domestic use that the inmates may possess, who being thus detached from the rest of the Poor, may consider themselves as comfortably lodged as in a secluded cottage, and thus enjoy, even in a Workhouse, in some degree, the comfort of a private fireside. The most infirm live on the ground floor; others are distributed through the upper stories. They all dine together in a large room, which occasionally serves as a chapel. The children are mostly employed in picking cotton, but are too crowded, 70 or 80 working in a small room. About 50 girls are bound apprentices in sprigging muslin. The house receives from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for each. A few old men are employed in boat building. Tailor's and other trades are carried on in the house. The number of persons in the house has varied from about 900 to a little less than 1,200 from 1782 to 1794. From a comparison of the house expenses in 1790 to 1794 it is clear that the

annual expense of a pauper in the Liverpool Workhouse does not exceed £7, which may be considered moderate when compared with the heavy charges in other parts of England. Weekly bill of fare: Breakfast, ever day—Oatmeal, hasty pudding, known as burgo, and milk. Dinner—Monday, Friday—Milk pottage and bread; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—Lobscouse, i.e. beef cut into small pieces and boiled with potatoes; Wednesday, Sunday—Broth, beef and bread. Supper—Monday, Tuesday, Saturday—Milk pottage and bread; Wednesday, Sunday—Broth, beef and bread; Thursday, Friday—Milk and bread. The bread is household bread. According to the table of expenses, 142½ lbs. (sic) of ale and beer at 1*d.* per lb. are consumed every day, and about 434 gallons of sweet milk (at 8 lbs. to the gallon) every week. About 2,700 out pensioners are also relieved, at a weekly expense of £56 9*s.* The committee refuse relief to such Poor as keep dogs. Common labourers earn from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Ship's carpenters from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*; other artificers in proportion. According to a bill of mortality, printed *in extenso*, it appears that between the 25th March, 1795, and the 25th March, 1796, 2,251 births and 2,394 burials took place in Liverpool. Of these burials 1,074 were of children under 2 years of age, and 1,245 occurred in the parish of St. John's, where there were only 71 births.

MANCHESTER.—In this great manufacturing town the preservation of parochial records has been almost wholly neglected, and of course very little correct information relative to the Poor can be obtained. Manchester is much divided into parties respecting the administration of parochial concerns and strong charges of negligence and misconduct have been made against many of the persons vested with the management of the Poor, who are maintained partly at home and partly in a Workhouse, where there are at present 319 persons, principally old women and children. They are principally employed in winding yarn. Particulars of their work and diet

could not be obtained as a malignant fever now rages with great violence in the house, and renders it unsafe to enter it. In Manchester, 3,879 houses pay window tax, and in Salford 693; number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions: Beef from 3½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; pork, 5*d.*; bacon, 8*d.*; fresh butter, 1*s.*; salt butter, 8*d.* to 10*d.*; wheat from 3*s.* 3*d.* for 12 lb.; oatmeal flour, 1*s.* 11*d.* for 10 lb.; potatoes, 6*s.* 6*d.* for 253 lb.; skim milk, 1½*d.* per quart; new milk, 3*d.* per quart; coals, 6*d.* to 7*d.* per cwt. House rent very high, 2 small rooms let from £4 to £6 a year. Wages vary much in different branches of manufacture, and even in the same employment, according to the skill and industry of the workmen. From the account of well-informed persons it appears that the average weekly earnings of manufacturing labourers in Manchester may be about 16*s.*, but they rarely work on Mondays, and many of them keep holiday two or three days a week. It must, however, be confessed, that constant employment cannot be procured by all who are inclined to work. The town would have suffered more severely than it has done by the stagnation of business had not the Army and Navy carried off those superfluous labourers who would otherwise have come on the rates. Women and children are employed in winding cotton, reeling, ending and mending, cutting fustian, picking cotton, and managing spinning jennies, etc. Women earn from 6*s.* to 12*s.* a week; their clear weekly earnings may be stated at 8*s.* Children 7 to 8 years old can earn 2*s.* a week; of 9 or 10, 4*s.* Printers of cotton from £1 1*s.* to £2 a week. Common labourers 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. There are 238 ale-houses in Manchester. In 1787 there were 677. They may be considered as few compared with the number in Liverpool.

The following are the earnings and expenses of a dyer, an intelligent, honest man, who seemed desirous of speaking the truth. He is 65, receives 13*s.* a week standing wages, a house and firing. His wife earns about 3*s.* 6*d.*

a week. Their whole earnings are £42 18*s*. Their expenses are: Bread, 3*s*. 6*d*. a week; butcher's meat, 2*s*. 3*d*.; beer about 6*d*.; cheese, 8*d*.; butter, 2*s*.; milk, 4*d*.; tea and sugar, 2*s*. 6*d*.; potatoes and other vegetables, 1*s*.; soap, candles and salt yearly about £2 12*s*; clothes yearly, about £4. Total yearly expenses, £39 15*s*. He has no one to provide for at home except his wife, but he has several children and grandchildren, who, though able to support themselves, are frequently in want. They eat with him and borrow from him, so that he finds it impossible to save.

The earnings and expenses of a carter to a Manchester gentleman. He is 39, his wife 35. His children are two girls of 12 and 9, three boys of 5, 3 and 5 months. The boys do not earn anything. The man has 12*s*. a week constant wages; the wife by roving cotton earns about 6*d*. a week; the two girls act as nurses for neighbours and earns 2*s*. 6*d*. and 2*s*. a week respectively. Total, £44 4*s*. a year. The weekly expenses are: House rent, 2*s*.; fuel, 7*d*. They have lately begun to use oatmeal bread, which costs 5*s*. a week; butcher's meat, 1*s*. 6*d*.; potatoes, 1*s*. 6*d*.; tea and sugar, 1*s*. 3*d*.; milk, 1*s*. 2*d*.; cheese, 1*s*. 6*d*.; butter, 1*s*.; soap, candles, groceries, yearly, etc., £2 10*s*.; clothes and other casual expenses, £5. Total, £47 16*s*.; deficit, £3 17*s*.

Preston contains about 4 square miles. In 1791 the population was 6,490. It is supposed to be 7,000 in 1795. The prices of provisions are: Beef, 4½*d*. per lb.; mutton, 5*d*.; veal, 4½*d*.; pork, 5*d*.; bacon, 9*d*.; butter, 11*d*.; new milk, 2*d*. per quart; best flour, 3½ lbs. for 1*s*.; household bread, 4 lbs. for 1*s*.; oatmeal, 240 lbs. for 41*s*.; wheat, 3½ bush. (Winchester) for 41*s*.; barley, 15*s*. 6*d*. to 17*s*. for the same quantity; potatoes, 22*d*. a bush.; oats, 3*s*. 6*d*. per Winchester bushel. Common labourers earn 2*s*. a day, sometimes 2*s*. 6*d*.; masons and bricklayers, 3*s*.; carpenters, 15*s*. or 16*s*. a week. Wages of cotton workers are at least as high as in Bury or Manchester. 63 ale-houses. Rent of land, £2 to

£4 statute acre. Farms in this neighbourhood are from £15 to £20 a year, mostly grass. Tithes taken partly in kind, and partly by composition. Land tax at 2¾*d.* in the pound. In this township there are 170 acres Cheshire—(2 acres 18½ perches statute make one Cheshire acre). There is a prison on Mr. Howard's plan for the reform of criminals. Each prisoner has 1½ lbs. bread a day, a lump of butter, and one half-pennyworth of potatoes. This may be exchanged for tea and sugar, but no spirits are permitted. The parish officers could not, or would not, give any information about Poor's Rates. They settle quarterly and do not preserve their old books. The few seen were kept in a very confused manner. Between July 1, 1794, and Jan. 1, 1795, 148 persons were fed in the Workhouse at a weekly cost of 1*s.* 6¼*d.* Between Jan. 1, 1795, and July 1, 154 persons were fed for 9¾*d.* a week each. A new Workhouse was recently erected near the town, on which occasion a paper was published from which the following is an extract: "The motives for the erection and establishment of the Workhouse at Preston are to train up the children of the Poor to habits of industry, religion and virtue, that they may be useful members of Society; to furnish employment for the Poor of all ages, and oblige them to earn their own support, so far as their strength and ability will admit; to prevent idleness, dissipation and vice; and to provide a comfortable asylum for the deserving whom age, disease or infirmity have disabled from pursuing their various employments." The Workhouse is built on a tolerable plan, but wants apartments for the sick. There are 4 or 5 beds in a room. The bedsteads are made of iron, and the beds stuffed with chaff. White-washing and other means of keeping the house clean seem rather neglected. Nothing is manufactured for the use of the house. There were 26 men, 39 women, 47 boys, and 40 girls in the house. The boys and girls weave callico till they are able to earn their living elsewhere. Old women wind cotton, a few who

can work, are employed in husbandry, gardening and other occupations No account of their earnings could be obtained. The following is the bill of fare: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Broth and bread; other days—Hasty pudding and beer or milk. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Beef, bread, vegetables and beer; other days—Beef hashed with onions, etc. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Bread-broth and bread; other days—Beer or milk pottage. The estimate, given above, of the weekly expenses of provisions for a pauper in the house, furnished by the vestry clerk, does not include the whole charge of each person. If all expenses are included, it is about 3*s.* 11*d.* a week. There are 10 friendly societies in Preston, which have an annual festival every Whit Monday, and parade through the town after divine service, accompanied by bands of music, with the flags of the different companies

Name	Date when Instituted	Members	expenses last 12 months. £ s. d.
1. Union	11 Feb., 1788	64	6 10 0
2. Friendly	12 Jan., 1789	43	4 11 0
3. United Weavers	8 Jan., 1791	69	4 9 6 (2)
4. Beneficent	6 June, 1791	58	4 0 0 (1)
5. Amicable	20 Mar., 1762	154	87 7 0 (4)
6. Humane	7 Aug., 1780	51	15 5 0
7. Unanimous	1 Mar., 1792	21	nil
8. Commendable	4 Mar., 1793	17	nil
9. Constitutional	21 Mar., 1793	30	nil
10. A Society lately established.			

The figures in brackets refer to the number of funerals of members of the society.

WARRINGTON contained in 1781 1941 houses and 8,791 inhabitants. Since that period the population has not increased. The Poor are maintained partly at home (188 out-pensioners, of whom 65 are men, 113 women, and the rest children), partly in a Workhouse, where there are 95 inmates (50 children under 9 years and the rest mostly old and infirm). They are employed in spinning hair for hair cloth, winding

warp for sailcloth, etc. Half the heavy sailcloth used in the Navy was made here. Table of diet in the Workhouse: Breakfast—Sunday, pottage and butter milk, sweatened with treacle; Monday, Friday, bread and broth; other days, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, broth beef and vegetables; Monday, thick pottage or hasty pudding; Saturday, butter milk and potatoes; other days, cold meat and potatoes. Supper—Sunday, bread and cheese; other days, boiled milk or milk pottage. It appears from the accounts published by the overseer and governor of the Workhouse that the following was the cost of the provisions per head per week for the following periods:

1st May, 1792, to 1st May, 1793	1*s.* 6¾*d.*
1st May, 1793, to 1st May, 1794	1*s.* 6*d.*
1st May, 1794, to 1st May, 1795	1*s.* 4*d.*

The Workhouse is an old one, but is kept very clean, and the Poor there seem very contented. The beds are filled with chaff, and are well provided with covering.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Ashby de la Zouch is a small market town containing about 11,200 acres. 195 houses pay tax. The war has been very injurious to the commercial interests of this town. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 3½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 3*d.* to 4*d.*; butter, 9*d.* to 10½*d.*; bread flour, 4*s.* per st.; potatoes, 5*d.* per gall. (about autumn they are generally 2*d.* or 3*d.* per gall.); milk, 1½*d.* per qt. Spinners of wool earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a week; wool combers from 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week; stocking weavers in general, 7*s.* to 17*s.* a week, but a few earn £1 15*s.*; hatters from 12*s.* to 20*s.*; labourers in husbandry, till within the last year, have 4*s.* a week in winter and 6*s.* in summer; now (1795) they have 6*s.* in winter, and 7*s.* to 9*s.* in summer, and victuals. Number of ale-houses reduced

from 25 to 21 since 1794. There are 8 friendly societies, with 40 to 80 members apiece; only 2 have had their rules confirmed by the magistrates. Rent of land, from 20*s.* to 30*s.* per acre. Common fields were enclosed about 24 years ago (1770), when the vicar had an allotment of land instead of tithe. Farms are chiefly from £50 to £90 a year. There is much pasture. Lord Moira claims the principal right to between 3 and 4,000 acres of waste, under which lies a seam of coal. The Poor are partly maintained at home (33 out-pensioners) and partly in the workhouse, where there are at present 52 persons, chiefly old women and children, who are taught to read, spin jersey, do common house work, spinning, knitting, sewing, working in the fields. The bedding and wearing apparel are chiefly manufactured in the house, exclusive of which the Poor earn by spinning jersey about 10*s.* 6*d.* a month. The bill of fare has been much varied of late, on account of the dearness of bread, etc. 2 pudding dinners in a week were formerly allowed, and the supper every day was about 1lb. of bread, and 1 pint of small beer for each adult; children somewhat less. Potatoes and vegetables are now generally substituted for bread. Breakfast—every day, milk pottage, water pottage or gruel. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, hot meat, vegetables and broth; other days, cold meat, vegetables and broth. Supper—every day, mashed potatoes, with milk or hashed meat. No account of the rates could be obtained prior to 1782, when they were 2*s.* 3*d.* in the pound, at ¾ of the net rent. About 1765 they were very low, and are said to have risen as manufactures increased. Near four-fifths of the inhabitants now chargeable belong to manufactories. Labourers in husbandry maintain their families much better than manufacturers, though their wages are lower. They are more economical and do not so much frequent the public house, so that they can support families of 3, 4 or 5 children without parish relief, while the manu-

facturers, having often drunken associates spend the money in ale-houses which should be applied to domestic uses, and having once applied for relief becomes totally regardless of that sense of shame, which is the best preservative of independence. When the common fields were enclosed the "lanes" were reserved for their use. They usually pay 2*s.* 6*d.* for a horse or cowgait therein.

CARLTON CURLIEU contains 1,160 acres, and 40 inhabitants. 5 houses pay tax, 3 exempt. No commons, as the parish has been enclosed many years. Average rent of land, 21*s.*; landlord pays tithe and land tax. No ale-houses nor friendly societies, and seldom any Poor. The persons at present chargeable are 2 orphans, a man of 55 insane, and a reduced grazier of 70.

KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP is divided into three townships: 1, Kibworth Beauchamp; 2, Kibworth Harcourt; and 3, Smeaton Westerby. No. 1 comprises 1,300 acres, No. 2 1,500, and No. 3 1,200. Houses paying tax are No. 1 43, No. 2 41, No. 3 40. Houses exempt are No. 1 50, No. 2 40, No. 3 45. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 3½*d.*; butter, 9½*d.* and 10*d.*; bread, 3½*d.* a pound, or 4lbs. for 1*s.*; coals, 13*d.* per cwt.; potatoes, 6*d.* per gallon; milk, ½*d.* per pint, but very little is sold. Wages vary very much. A common labourer in husbandry earns about 8*s.* 6*d.* a week in winter, and from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in summer, without victuals. Women can earn 6*d.* to 10*d.* a day spinning worsted. Children of 12 to 14 earn about 6*d.* a day by spinning. There are 8 ale-houses in the parish, and one friendly society with 110 members, whose rules have been confirmed. Average rent about 25*s.* an acre. Farms generally about £100 a year. Nine-tenths of the land pasture, but no common or waste. 3,600 acres were enclosed in 1780, when the rector had one-seventh of the enclosure instead of tithes. The Poor are main-

tained by a weekly allowance or occasional relief at home. In No. 1 18 poor persons receive £2 11*s.* 11½*d* weekly; in No. 2 20 poor families receive £5 weekly; In No. 3 21 pensioners receive £3 3*s.* 6*d.* weekly. Other persons receive occasional relief.

The following are the earnings and expenses of a labourer: Man, 40 years, with wife and 5 children (girls of 14, 12 and 6, boy of 8 and 1½). He said his earnings were so uncertain that he could give no accurate statement of them, but as near as he could calculate they were as follows: Half a year's work at the canal, at 2*s.* a day, when weather permitted. When it did not, the parish allowed him 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, or 8*s.* 6*d.* a week for 26 weeks. Succeeding 13 weeks at 9*s*; the summer quarter 8*s.* 6*d.* a week and victuals, worth 6*s.* a week. Father's earnings, £26 6*s.* 6*d.* Eldest girl earns by spinning 2*s.* a week, or yearly £5 4*s.* Total, £31 10*s.* 6*d.* The parish pay his rent, find him coals, and occasionally give him articles of wearing apparel, and for last 2 weeks 2*s.* a week. The family uses 6lbs. of bread a day (formerly costing 10*d.*, now 1*s.* 6*d.*, and lately 2*s.*), which is £27 6*s.* for the year. He could say little about his other expenses, but asserts they use little or no milk or potatoes, and no oatmeal. Seldom any butter, but occasionally a little cheese and sometimes meat on Sunday. His wife and daughters consume a little tea. Bread, however, is the chief support of the family, but at present they do not have enough, and his children are almost naked and half starved. He adds he has worked many days with only bread diet, and that many weeks have elapsed since he tasted beer. A great number of cottages owned by the three townships are inhabited by the Poor. Others have their house-rent paid. Several have clothes, etc. The Poor complain of hard treatment by the overseers, who accuse the Poor of being saucy. The rates are said to have been not one-third of their present figure before the enclosures, and the

people attribute the rise to the enclosures, for they say "that before the fields were enclosed they were solely applied to the production of corn; that the Poor had then plenty of employment in weeding, reaping, threshing, etc., and would also collect a great deal of corn by gleaning, but that the fields being now in pasturage, the farmers have little occasion for labourers and the Poor being thereby thrown out of employment, must of course be supported by the parish." There is some truth in these observations: a third or a quarter of the number of hands required 20 years ago is sufficient according to the present system of agriculture to perform all the farming work of the parish. It is probable, however, that the wool now produced in Leicestershire employs more hands (though perhaps not in the county) than its arable fields did formerly; many labourers get work at a canal cutting in the neighbourhood. Otherwise the rates would have been much higher. In the winter men are sent out "on the rounds." The housekeeper who employs one gives him his food and 6*d.* a day, and the parish adds 4*d.* for the support of his family. As work here is mostly done by the piece, it is not possible to give a correct statement as to earnings, but a day labourer has 1*s.* a day and breakfast in winter, and in hay and corn harvest, which is very short, 1*s.* 2*d.* a day and board. Many complaints are made against "monopolizing farmers."

LEICESTER contains 143 public houses of which 40 are inns, and 14 friendly societies. Almost all have had their rules confirmed. These institutions are much liked here, and are increasing very rapidly. A considerable manufacture of worsted stockings is carried on here. Stocking weavers earn from 7*s.* to 21*s.* a week; wool combers from 9*s.* to 12*s.*; worsted spinners from 4*d.* to 8*d.* a day; agricultural labourers at present 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, with victuals. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 4½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 4½*d.*; butter, 10½*d.*, or 1*s.* per lb.; bread, 1lb. 11oz. for 6*d.*;

milk, 1½*d.* the quart short measure. The Poor of St. Martin's, Leicester, are farmed by a man who receives from the parish £14 a week. There are 42 persons, principally old women and children, under his care Some Out-Poor receive £4 11*s.* a week. The farmer is a stocking manufacturer, and employs the Poor in spinning worsted, etc. They work in the summer from 6 in the morning till 8 at night, and in winter from 7 till 9, meal times excepted. The house is not well situated, nor aired in the best manner, but appears to be kept very clean. The beds are of flocks, and much infested with bugs. A woman teaches the children to read and spin. Table of diet: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, milk pottage or gruel; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, broth and bread; Saturday, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, broth, meat and vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, cold meat, vegetables and beer; Saturday, bread, cheese and beer. Supper—every day, bread, cheese and beer. About £16 in different donations are annually distributed among the Poor of this parish. There are in Leicester 5 hospitals, in which there are usually about 200 Poor. The war has had no other effect on the manufactures of this town than by taking off a great number of hands. Several soldiers' families of course became burdensome. The manufactures of Leicester are sent to different parts of the kingdom and to America. Every parish in the town supports its own Poor.

The following is an account given by a wool-comber of his earnings and expenses: He is 50, has a wife and 2 sons, of 13 and 9. The man earns on an average 9*s.* a week, yearly £23 8*s.* The elder boy serves a bricklayer, and earns about 4*s.* 6*d.* a week in winter, and 2*s.* in summer, a yearly average of £8 9*s.* The woman earns by spinning and seaming stockings, yearly £3 18*s.* Total, £35 15*s.* Annual expenses: Bread, 3*s.* a week before the present scarcity, at present 7*s.*; the former

sum amounts to £7 16*s.*; 10lbs. butcher's meat weekly at 3*d.* per lb = £6 10*s.*; potatoes and vegetables, 1*s.* 6*d.* weekly, £3 18*s.*; milk, 2*d.* a day, £3 1*s.* 4*d.*; ale and beer about 1*s.* 6*d.* weekly, £3 18*s.*; butter, 2lbs weekly at 9*d.*, £3 18*s.*; cheese, 3½lbs. weekly at 6*d.*, £4 11*s.*; tea, sugar, etc., weekly about 1*s.* 6*d.*, £3 18*s.*; clothes and fuel about £6; house rent, £3 18*s.* Total, £47 8*s.* 4*d.* Deficiency, £11 13*s.* 4*d.* This is probably erroneous in some particulars, for the man has not lately received any assistance from the parish. He stated his various expenses with every apearance of veracity. That he does not earn more than 9*s.* a week in a place where wages are high, is easily explained; he often spends 2 or 3 days a week in an ale-house, lamenting the hardness of the times. Some inferences may be drawn from this account respecting the proportion of the different kinds of food used by people of this description in manufacturing towns. The improvidence of the family is glaring; not a sixpence is laid by to provide against sickness or old age, and it is probable that the family will ultimately be thrown on the parish.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Alford contains about 1,300 acres, much of which is common field. There are 188 families in this small market town. 48 houses pay tax, 90 exempt. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5½*d.*; veal, 4*d.* and 4½*d.*; bacon, 8*d.*; potatoes, 16lb. for 6*d.*; butter, 6*d.* per lb.; flour from 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per stone; wheat, £3 10*s.* a quarter; barley, £2; oats, 26*s.*; malt, 54*s.*; coals, 28*s.* a chaldron of 32 bush.; milk, ½*d.* a pint. Wages of common labourers are from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, without victuals. Women for weeding corn have 8*d.* or 10*d.* a day, without victuals; in harvest wages are often as high as 5*s.* a day. There are 11 ale-houses, and 2 friendly societies with 64 members. Rent of land, 15*s.* to 30*s.*, tithes generally taken in kind,

Before 1791 the Poor were taken care of by the overseers, who rented a house, where most of the Poor were kept and those who were able to work were employed. A school of industry was kept up for a few years, but being thought disadvantageous was discontinued in 1794. Since 1791 the Poor have been farmed and maintained in a Poor-house, where there are at present 15 inmates, of whom 3 are under 7, 3 between 7 and 15, and the rest chiefly old people. No information could be obtained of earnings; they are probably insignificant, as an old woman, who is almost a pauper, is the governess of the house. She is often opposed by very clamorous competitors for power, and is scarcely able to retain the reins of government, much less to enforce good order and industry. This is the general bill of fare. Breakfast every day—Bread and milk. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Bread, potatoes, broth, dumplins, and butcher's meat; Monday, Wednesday, Friday—Bread, cold meat and milk; Saturday—Bread and butter or cheese, and milk. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday—Broth and bread; other days—Bread and milk. One pound of bread a day is allowed to each adult. The beds are mostly filled with feathers. That neatness which discovers itself in some workhouses is not to be found here. Several small donations, amounting to £6 a year, are distributed among the Poor who do not receive parish relief. No certificates are granted except to parishioners resident in the county. About 3 are granted yearly; usually 2 or 3 removals yearly. One lately contested cost the parish between £60 and £70.

COCKERINGTON contains about 1,400 acres. 22 houses pay tax, 10 exempt. No ale-houses. Rent of land from 5*s.* to 25*s.* per acre, average about 16*s.* Land tax at 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. Common field was enclosed 25 years ago, when land was given in lieu of tithes. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 4*d.* and 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 3½*d.* to 5*d.*; bacon, 8*d.*; wheat, 7*s.* 6*d.* per bush.; malt, 50*s.* to 55*s.* per quarter; barley, 36*s.* to

39*s.*; butter, 8*d.* per lb. of 18 oz.; milk, 1*d.* per pint. Labourers get, with diet, 10*d.* per day in winter and 1*s.* 6*d.* in summer. The Poor have an allowance at home. Ten receive sums from 1*s.* to 3*s.* a week. Some others receive casual relief. A certificate is granted about once in two years. A removal occurs once in 5 or 6 years. No contest can be remembered. Cottages in this, and several of the neighbouring parishes, are very small, made of clay, and thatched with straw. Labourers appear to be much more cleanly in their persons and houses than similar persons in the north of England.

LOUTH contains about 3,000, and a population supposed to be 4,000 (in 1782 3,300). It is a small market town without manufactures. Coal is now brought by a canal from the Humber to within half a mile of the town, which has cheapened fuel. The inhabitants still use dung of animals for fuel. 392 houses pay tax. Number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions: Beef, 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 3½*d.* to 5*d.*; bacon, 8*d.*; flour, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.* per st.; oatmeal, 2*s.* per st.; potatoes, 6*d.* to 9*d.* a peck; wheat, 7*s.* 6*d.* per bush.; malt, 50*s.* to 55*s.* per quarter; barley, 36*s.* to 39*s.*; butter, 8*d.* for 18oz.; milk, 1*d.* per pint. Wages of labourers, 20*d.* to 2*s.* a day in summer, and 16*d.* in winter, or throughout the year 1*s.* 6*d.* a day without victuals. 22 ale-houses (8 of which sell wine), 4 friendly societies, containing altogether 190 members. Rent of land, 10*s.* to £3 an acre, average £1 1*s.* Most of the land is in 2 large common fields fallowed and cropped alternately. Large tracts of waste lands in these fields, where a great number of poor people summer each a cow, which in winter go at large on these fields. The Poor complain heavily of the farmers saying "that they encroach on their property," and the farmers say "that the Poor take the opportunity of eating their corn with their cattle." Tithes taken in kind. Land tax about 1*s.* 3*d.* in the pound. Donations of

yearly value of £100 are distributed among the Poor not in receipt of relief. There is an Alms-house where rooms are provided for 12 decayed widows, who get also £3 7*s*. and 7 pecks of coal each a year. In 1791 a new House of Industry was built. It is not erected on a good plan; the only entrance to the house, yard, etc., is through a door not 4ft. wide, and only 8ft. high, which is very inconvenient for taking in hay, or bringing out manure. The staircase is narrow and steep. There are no regular working rooms or separate rooms for the sick. There is one large room for the men, and another for the women, each containing 14 beds, which are partitioned from each other by deal boards at each end and on one side. The view of a sick neighbour is thereby in a great measure obstructed, but, to a feeling mind, the sense of hearing must frequently convey very disagreeable ideas; the smell also must frequently be offensive; yet on the whole the house is kept as clean as it can well be. The present farmer of the poor House of Industry is a wool-comber and manufacturer of worsted. He employs some of the Poor in combing wool, spinning and knitting worsted. and some in common labour out of the house; he says he provides places for those boys and girls who do not like his business. At present there are 39 inmates—15 children under 12, 9 men and 15 women. The farmer adds that not more than 8 or 9 people are constantly employed; the others are either young children, old or infirm, or are engaged in attending their sick companions. He pays 22*s*. a week to 28 poor people out of the house. The bill of fare is as follows: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, milk or water gruel and 6oz. of bread; other days, bread and broth. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, flour puddings, butcher's meat, bread, broth and potatoes or greens; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, milk or cheese and bread; Saturday, dumplins and treacle sauce. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday,

Saturday, bread and milk ; other days, 6oz. of bread and 2oz. of cheese or butter with beer. Small beer is allowed every dinner and supper when cheese is used ; those who work out of the house often have cold meat allowed them for dinner on bread and milk days. On meat days about 28lbs. of meat are boiled for 40 people. About £100 are yearly distributed among the Poor not in receipt of parish relief. In 1794, when the Poor were managed by the parish officers, the expense was double what it was before when they were farmed.

SPILSBY is estimated to contain 1,200 acres, with a population (in 1792) of 850. 121 houses pay tax, about 50 exempt. One friendly society. Wages of labourers, without diet, about 1*s.* a day in winter, 2*s.* in summer. In harvest men receive 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and occasionally 6*s.* and 7*s.* The women have very little employment at home, except in taking care of their family. A few take in washing, and assist in public houses (9 in the parish) and earn 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day. Prices of provisions : Beef, 4½*d.* and 5*d.* ; mutton, 5*d.* ; veal, 4*d.* and 4½*d.* ; bacon, 8*d.* ; butter, 6*d.* ; potatoes, 5*d.* and 6*d.* the peck ; milk, ½*d.* per pint ; wheat, 63*s.* to 70*s.* the quarter ; oats, 28*s.* ; barley, 42*s.* ; malt, 52*s.* ; coals, 1*s.* 6*d.* the bushel. The labouring people are not very thrifty or parsimonious in their diet, and consequently often very poor. Tea, milk and potatoes much used, to which are added butter and butcher's meat whenever they can possibly be obtained. Highways are maintained by Statute labour without rate. Average rent of land, 24*s.* an acre. Lord Gwydir, the owner of most of the parish, is also impropriator of the great tithes. His tenants pay no tithe, a small modus from the other farmers. At the conclusion of the American War, the rates here were so high, and the poverty of the labouring classes so great, that the magistrates started a scheme for teaching poor children to knit before they were six, and to spin before they were nine. In 1783 a society was formed for the pro-

motion of industry by distributing premiums in various articles of clothing among those children who had produced the greatest quantity of work of different kinds, and of the best quality. The expenses were defrayed by a contribution for each parish in the district equal to 1 % of the last year's Poor Rate, subscriptions annually of 5s. from individuals and private benefactions. Schools were erected for the instruction of children in spinning jersey, and premiums awarded to the most industrious who were further distinguished by the appellation of King or Queen of the Spinners in their district; innocent devices to encourage industry, which if they animate the Poor as much as ribbons and garters stimulate the Rich to active and honest exertion, must render it desirable that the titles of royalty should grace the brow of every industrious cottage child in the kingdom. In 1786 a dyer and hot presser were established at Louth. Between 1786 and midsummer, 1790, 222 knitting premiums were distributed, for which 400 children were candidates, all under 8 years. The following is an account of the spinning premiums:

Year	Candidates for premiums		Total work in 2 trial months gross	hanks.	Candidates earnings per day	Average age
1786	150	130	464	8doz. 11	4*d.*	11 yrs. 4 mths.
1787	128	90	398	2doz. 8	4½*d.*	11 yrs. 5 mths.
1788	142	105	460	2doz. 5	4½*d.*	10 yrs. 11 mths.
1789	136	101	505	3doz.	5*d.*	11 yrs. 11 mths.
1790	112	70	438	10doz. 5	5½*d.*	11 yrs. 11 mths.

N.B.—A gross is 12 doz. hanks, a hank is 7 lees, 1 lee is 80 yards.

The spinning schools are now laid aside, and opinions on their utility differ widely. Many thought the schools expensive to the parish, and detrimental to the children, who were made puny and weak by so long a sedentary employment, at an early period of life, and at the age of 12 or 13, when they ought to engage in other work, they knew nothing except how to spin. Others thought

that if properly managed the schools might have been useful. The unfavourable opinion, though perhaps due in some cases to prejudice, was in most probably the result of conviction, for it cannot be supposed that anyone would discountenance a system from which there was any probability of a reduction of the Poor's Rate. The experience of eight years, however, has proved that though schools of industry may flourish for a while, under the active zeal of their first promoters, yet, when after a few years' trial they are left to the care of less interested administrators, they dwindle into the ordinary state of parish Poor-houses. A Poor-house has existed many years at Spilsby, and to it are sent such Poor as do not receive relief at home. They are under the direction of a worsted manufacturer, who lives in the Workhouse, and provides clothes and other necessaries for the inmates. He is allowed 3*s*. 6*d*. a week per head, with their earnings, which are inconsiderable. There are 8 children under 12, one man and one woman each over 70, and a woman of 35. 14 out-pensioners receive 28*s*. weekly. The house is a good building, but much out of repair, and not so clean as it ought to be. The beds are filled with feathers and well provided with covering. The table of diet is as follows: Breakfast—Sunday, milk or broth; Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, broth; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, beef, mutton or pork; Monday, cold meat; Tuesday, bullocks' or sheep's heads; Wednesday, light dumplins; Friday, bread and cheese, puddings or dumplins; Saturday, pudding or dumplins. Supper—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, bread and cheese; Tuesday, Thursday, bread, cheese and milk. From Lady-day to Michaelmas the Poor in the house rise at 6 and go to bed at 9. Doors are shut at 8.30. The rest of the year they rise at 8 and go to bed at 8. Doors are shut at 6. About 4 or 5 certificates are granted in a

year, and about 1 removal in the same time. A contested removal seldom occurs more often than once in 10 years. The rent of a few houses amounting to £30 a year is yearly given to poor housekeepers who receive no parochial aid. There is also a school for 15 poor children, with a salary to the master. A Sunday school has been established for 50 scholars.

SWINESHEAD contains by estimation 4,400 acres, and 1,550 inhabitants. 166 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.* to 5½*d.*; pork, 5*d.*; bacon, 9*d.*; butter, 7*d.* or 7½*d.*; potatoes, 4*d.* a peck; wheat, £3 10*s.* a quarter; barley, 36*s.*; malt, 52*s.*; flour, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.* the stone; milk, ½*d.* per pint, but little is sold, as farmers mostly stock their pastures with sheep. The Poor use much tea and water pottage made of water oatmeal, onions, salt and pepper, with butter when it can be got. Labourers' wages in winter are from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; in summer 2*s.* a day without victuals. In harvest 3*s.* to 4*s.* a day, and. sometimes much more. Women get 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* a day for weeding corn, but in winter are unemployed except in spinning jersey or worsted, at which they earn so little that scarcely one person in ten will apply for it. It is generally remarked that in these fens the people are sluggish and averse to industry. 10 ale-houses, 3 of which sell wine; no friendly society. Rent of land, about 20*s.* an acre. Farms from £10 to £200 a year, mostly from £40 to £100. When the fens were divided, about 27 years ago, land was given in lieu of tithes. The Poor have been farmed for more than 20 years, but there are only 5 persons in the house—a deaf and dumb shoemaker of 46, an old woman, and 3 bastard children. 13 regular out-pensioners. A few others receive casual relief, but at this season (June, 1795) the Poor are most easily maintained from the work they procure in the fields. The farmer of the Poor has £130 a year for the support of the Poor. The

parish provides clothes, pays doctors' bills, etc., and relieves casual Poor who do not belong to the parish, as it is thought the farmer had too hard a bargain for some years past. Last year (1794) he had £120. A subscription made last winter for the necessitous amounted to £50. Upon the whole the Poor are well supported. Several donations, amounting to about £60 a year, are distributed among poor housekeepers. There is a charity school for 25 poor children. Certificates are granted and received without scruple. About 3 removals in a year, an appeal scarcely once in 7 years.

TATTERSHALL is a small market town with no manufacture. The population has not changed much in 20 years. 50 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. 4 ale-houses, no friendly society. The Poor receive an allowance at home of about *2s.* a week each. Very little information could be obtained respecting them, as the parish officers would not allow their books to be examined, but furnished a return of doubtful accuracy.

WILLOUGHBY contains 5,647 acres of which 536 are common field. The inhabitants in 1788 were 378. 41 houses pay tax. There are 2 ale-houses, no friendly society. Wages in husbandry are from *20d.* to *2s.* a day. Rent of land, mostly in sheep pasture, about *9s.* or *10s.* an acre. Corn land pays *6s.* an acre for tithe. Grass, *1s.* to *2s. 6d.* Average *1s. 6d.* The Poor have an allowance at home. There are at present 14 out-pensioners, chiefly old labourers and widows. At the discretion of the officers, money from the Poor's Rate is paid for coals, house-rents, repairing houses, etc. About 2 certificates yearly 1 removal in three years, no person can recollect a contested one. Several poor children have been successful in winning spinning and knitting premiums, awarded in the district of Alford. The following first rate premiums were awarded in 1795: Boys—coat, waistcoat, and breeches, three shirts and stocks, three pairs of stockings, two pairs of

shoes, pair of buckles, two pocket handkerchiefs, hat, medal No. 1. Girls—hat and ribband, two shifts, two pair of sleeves, two caps, gown, quilted and flannel petticoat, stays, one white apron, one check apron, two pairs of stockings, one pair of shoes and buckles, two pocket handkerchiefs, two neck ditto, medal No. 1. To each of the first four in each district, a pair of knit worsted gloves. Second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth. and seventh rate premiums containing similar clothing in smaller proportion, were also given. The knitting premiums were: Boys—stockings, shoes, hat, medal No. 8. Girls—ribband, check apron, stockings and shoes, medal No. 8. Ninth and tenth rate premiums were also given. Every premium included a pair of shoes.

LINCOLN.—Some years ago the gentlemen of several parishes in and adjoining the city of Lincoln purchased a house, very well situated for the purpose for which it was intended; and after undergoing several necessary alterations it was opened for the reception of paupers. At first a certain sum was paid for the maintenance of each person, but this having been found inconvenient, an association was formed of several parishes in and near the city about 1791. It was agreed to pay the proprietors of the house a rent for receiving all such Poor as should be sent thither; and that the house and Out-Poor expenses should be paid out of the general stock, towards which each parish pays the average of its annual expenditure for the 5 years before the union, to be paid in 4 quarterly payments. Seldom more than 3 of the quarterly payments have been called for in a year. There is, moreover, a surplus in hand of £400, which it is proposed to spend on an Act of Parliament to incorporate the parishes and make some improvements in the house. At present the union consists of 19 small parishes. There are 40 male and 41 female inmates, of whom 30 are children under 12, and 25 above 60. They are

chiefly employed indoors in spinning flax and wool, in making stockings and other clothes. The worsted spinners earn about £25 a year. The house is kept clean; its situation is very healthy. The bill of fare is as follows: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, bread, broth, beef, potatoes, etc.; Monday, Saturday, bread, cheese and beer; Tuesday, pease pottage or boiled beer; Thursday, rice milk and bread; Friday, beef and stewed potatoes. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, mashed potatoes; other days, bread, cheese and beer. The city of Lincoln contains about 5,000 inhabitants. The Poor's Rates vary from 2*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the net rental. In the neighbouring farming county they are from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. The land tax in Lincoln is from 9*d.* to 2*s.* in the pound. The city contains about 5,000 inhabitants.

MIDDLESEX

Ealing contains about 4,480 acres of which 1,560 are grass-land, about 1,220 arable, 250 market gardens, and 70 commons. The inhabitants, such as are usual in a village within seven miles of London, are between 4,000 and 5,000. According to the surveyor's books, 355 houses pay tax, exempted 33; 49 houses have more than 25 windows each. According to the rate-book, there are 729 houses in the parish. There are 38 alehouses. Prices of provisions much the same as in the metropolis. A garden labourer can earn 10*s.* a week, all the year round, and 3*s.* a day by piece work. Prices of agricultural labour here and in most parts of Middlesex (near the metropolis) are: Mowers of grass, 3*s.* to 6*s.* an acre; mowers of oats and barley, 3*s.* to 4*s.*; reaping wheat, including binding and shocking, 10*s.* to 12*s.*; hoeing turnips, 10*s.* to 12*s.*; threshing oats, including binding, 2*s.* 6*d.*; all per acre. Labourers near London are paid 18*d.* or 20*d.* a day. An able man can, however, earn 2*s.* a day both in summer and

winter. During the fruit season many women are employed in the market gardens. Their wages seldom exceed half that men receive for the same work. A woman is only paid 6*d.* for carrying a heavy basket of fruit from Ealing or Brentford to Covent Garden, nearly 9 miles. They sometimes make two trips a day. Most of the women thus employed are Welsh. Rent of land from £2 to £4 an acre. Average of whole parish probably near £3. Number of friendly societies 9—3 in Ealing proper and 6 in Old Brentford. The Poor are partly relieved at home and partly in the Workhouse, the inmates of which are infirm and aged parishioners, and poor persons who meet with accidents in passing through the parish. It is a small inconvenient building, very ill adapted to the purpose. When full, 4 men sleep in a bed. At present (June, 1796) 3 men sleep in a bed, 4 boys in a bed, and 3 women in a bed. The beds are of feathers. Table of diet: Breakfast—Sunday, bread and cheese; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, broth from the beef of the day before; other days, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, half a pound of beef, 5th part of a quartern loaf, and a pint of small beer to each person; Monday, Friday, milk pottage, 4th part of a quartern loaf, and a pint of small beer; Wednesday, suet pudding, 4th part of a quartern loaf, and a pint of small beer; Saturday, pease soup, 4th part of a quartern loaf, and a pint of small beer. Supper—every day, bread and cheese and a pint of small beer. Men who work out of the house are allowed each a pint of small beer at breakfast, children half a pint at each meal. Each person receives 2oz. cheese at breakfast and supper. On Easter Day mutton is served instead of beef, and for two days at Christmas strong beer and tobacco is given. The sick only are allowed tea and sugar. The men are chiefly employed on the common, while at such work they are allowed 6*d.* a week for tobacco. The boys beat hemp, weave bed sacking and sacks, and

make ropes. They are put to work at 5 or 6 years; a boy of 10 and 11 learns to weave tolerably well in a month, and weaves a sack worth 2*s.* 6*d.* in two days. Many run away; the parish provides for others by sending them to a manufactory, when they are sufficiently skilful. Out of work hours they are taught to read by a schoolmaster, with the moderate salary of 2*s.* a month. The women and girls are employed in spinning hemp and dressing fine flax for sheeting. The children are clothed by the parish. The boys receive a hat and coat every two years, a waistcoat and breeches every year, and other articles as they need them. In one year the parish cleared £90 after paying the expenses of raw material, etc. But between May and December, 1794, the receipts were £219, expenses £243, loss to the parish £24; and between 18th March, 1794, and 29th Feb., 1796, £40. It is evident therefore that the parochial manufacture is a losing concern. Sacks made here are sold at 2*d.* a piece below the usual price at Brentford. There is a charity school for 20 girls, and another for 20 boys. There are also several charities and several Sunday schools in the parish. Very considerable subscriptions were raised last winter and the winter before (1794 and 1795) for the relief of the Poor. Brown bread was made, which distressed families were allowed to purchase at 10½*d.* the quartern loaf. Many labourers, however, thought the bread so coarse and unpalatable that they returned the tickets, though the price of the wheaten loaf was near 15*d.* the quartern.

The following are the earnings and expenses of a labourer, aged about 40, employed regularly throughout the year, in a gentleman's fields and gardens. His weekly wages are 11*s.*, but sometimes he works by the piece, when he makes 3*s.* a day easily. His hours of work are in summer from 6 to 6, in winter from daylight to dark. He has a wife and four children (2 boys aged 8 and 6, two girls 4 and 1½). Earnings: Regular

weekly wages annually, £28 12*s.*; extra by piece work from employer, £6; ditto from other people, after usual work hours, £3. His wife does a little work in hay harvest, about £1. Total, £38 12*s.* Expenses: Rent for cottage and small garden, £3 18*s.* His family consume a quartern loaf of bread a day, which at 10*d.* comes to £15 3*s.* 4*d.*; meat, £4 11*s.*; small beer, 4 quarts at 6*d.* weekly, or yearly £1 6*s.*; cheese, £1; estimated consumption of tea, 2oz. a week, at 4*s.* per lb.; 2lb. sugar at 9*d.*; soap, ½lb. weekly at 9*d.*; candles, about 10*s*, or all together, £6 7*s.*; coals, one bushel a week at 1*s.* 6*d.*, which for 26 weeks is £1 19*s.* He uses two pair of shoes a year (7*s.* 6*d.* each, 1*s.* mending), or yearly 16*s*; 3 pairs of stockings (2*s.* a pair), 6*s.*; an old coat about 7*s.*; shirts, 10*s.*; other articles, 10*s.*; yearly expenditure on clothes, £2 9*s.* His wife's clothes not more than £1 1*s.* The two eldest children learn to read at a day school at 3*d.* a week, each £1 6*s.* Total expenses, £39 0*s.* 4*d.* Nothing is charged for clothing the children, as the wife contrives to provide them from her husband's old clothes, and from presents of linen which she receives on lying-in, etc. The man is allowed from his master's garden what potatoes and other vegetables he has occasion for, and about a quart of skim milk from the dairy every morning. Notwithstanding, he complains heavily of the hardness of the times, and says his earnings are barely sufficient to pay his expenses. He is now asking for an increase in wages.

HAMPTON.—The Poor are partly relieved at home and partly maintained in a Poor-house on Hampton Common, in an airy situation on gravelly soil. In Jan., 1796, there were 7 girls, 5 boys, 4 women, and 1 man in the house. In the previous winter there were 21. It is under the direction of a man and his wife who, in addition to a small salary, receive 2*s.* 8*d.* a week for every pauper they feed. The food seems wholesome and good, and is certainly much better

than a labouring man could afford his family. Meat is served every day, with vegetables from the garden. The female paupers are not content with the ample allowance of food, and would be riotous without tea every morning. This is not allowed by the master. but they contrive to get tea and sugar, cups and tea-pots. The house seems clean and neat, and can hold 40 inmates. There are 6 bedrooms, each having 3 feather beds ; seldom more than 2 sleep in a bed. The children are taught to read and say their prayers, but no kind of work seems going forward. Before May, 1795, the Poor were farmed for £300 a year. The Poor are clothed once a year, and wear a red badge on their shoulders, marked P H (parish of Hampton). Table of diet : Breakfast—every day, broth or water gruel, sometimes bread and milk for the children, bread and cheese for the men and women. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, hot boiled beef (half a pound to each person), sometimes dumplins, and a pint of beer (the children are not limited to any quantity) ; other days, cold boiled beef. Supper—every day, bread and 2oz. butter or cheese, and a pint of beer. Treacle is sometimes given instead of cheese to the children. One pound of bread is given each man and woman in the morning, to last all day. The rates have been nearly the same for many years.

St. Martin in the Fields.—The Poor are partly relieved at home, and partly maintained in the Work-house in Castle Street, Leicester Fields. There are about 240 out-pensioners, besides a considerable number on the casual list. There are 573 inmates (473 adults, 100 children). Their principal employment is spinning flax, picking hair, and carding wool. Their average earnings £150. It was once attempted to establish a manufacture, but the badness of the situation for business, the want of room for workshops, and the difficulty of compelling the able Poor to pay proper attention to work rendered it unsuccessful. Between

70 and 80 children are generally out at nurse in the country, at a weekly allowance of 3*s.* (lately advanced to 3*s.* 6*d.*). At 7 or 8 they are taken into the house, taught a little reading, etc., for 3 or 4 years, and put out as apprentices. The bill of fare is as follows: Breakfast—bread and butter; Friday, water gruel sweetened and spiced; other days, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, 6oz. meat without bone; Monday, Wednesday, pease soup; Tuesday, Thursday, beef and greens; Friday, barley gruel with milk; Saturday, 1lb. plum pudding. Supper—every day, bread and cheese or butter. Fourteen oz. bread and 1 quart beer are allowed a day to each person; mutton and broth for the sick every day; to each married lying-in woman, one pot of porter for caudle the first 9 days and a pint for 7 days after; others half that quantity; boiled mutton with potatoes once in 6 weeks, pease and beans with bacon, and mackerel and salmon once in the season; grey pease and bacon on Shrove Tuesday; buns on Good Friday; roast beef on Christmas Day; pork and pease pudding on New Year's Day; plum cake on Holy Thursday. The donations to the Poor, on account of the scarcity of bread last winter (1794-5) amounted to £832 8*s.* 6*d.* The number of houses paying tax in the parish is estimated at 1,360, number exempt 1,800, including 200 uninhabited. Ale-houses, 179. Removals, appeals, etc., seldom exceed £44 a year.[1]

Early in the year 1796, when flour was 12*s.* a bushel, the churchwardens and overseers of the Poor came to a resolution to substitute rice instead of flour for puddings and other uses in the house. The following table will show the difference of expense in the two articles per week: Plum pudding—4 bush. flour, £2 8*s.*; 4 bush. barley at 7*s.*, £1 8*s.*; 42lbs. raisins,

[1] From a statement published by the churchwardens and overseers in December, 1796, for the year 1795 to 1796, it appears, however, that the expenses for removals and appeals "and various other contingencies" amounted to £278 12*s.*

12*s.*; 30lbs. suet at 6*d.*, 15*s.*; 8 gallons milk at 1*s.* 4*d.*, 10*s.* 8*d.*; allspice and ginger, 3*s.* 9*d.* Total, £5 17*s.* 5*d.* Rice pudding—100lbs rice, 19*s.*; 18 gallons milk, £1 4*s.*; 14lbs. sugar, 8*s.* 2*d.*; 10lbs. butter, 6*s.* 8*d.*; 1lb. spices, 3*s.* 6*d.* Total, £3 1*s.* 4*d.* Difference in cost, £2 16*s.* 1*d.* This quantity will dine 600 people. Admitted into the house in the year 1795-6, 797 persons. Discharged, 710 persons. Died, 112 persons.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

ABERGAVENNY contains by estimation 4 square miles, and about 2,500 inhabitants. 302 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Ale-houses, 25. Prices of provisions: Wheat, 12*s.* to 13*s.* for 10 gallons; barley, 5*s.* 6*d.*; beef, 4*d.* per lb.; mutton, 4*d.*; veal, 4½*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; milk, 1½*d.* a quart. Common labourers have 9*s.* a week, and beer; in hay and corn harvest, 9*s.* a week and board. In the neighbouring parishes, 6*s.* a week in winter, and 7*s.* in summer, besides which the farmer allows them corn, etc., rather lower than market price. Rent of land, from 10*s.* to £3 10*s.* an acre. Farms chiefly about £40 or £50 a year, land mostly in pasture. No commons. Tithes compounded for. There is a sort of Poor-house, where formerly a woollen manufacture was attempted, but, not being found to answer, it was discontinued, and for the last 6 or 7 years no master has been kept, and such Poor as cannot procure a residence elsewhere are put in the house, with an allowance to support themselves. There are 70 regular and 30 casual out-pensioners. The accounts were formerly kept on loose paper, most of which were in the possession of a person who became insane, and destroyed them. The rate is extremely irregular, nor has any alteration in the mode of assessment taken place for some time back, so that it is probable that on an average land is not assessed at more than one-third its real value.

MONMOUTH is said to be a square of a mile and a quarter. Population unknown. 351 houses pay tax. 30 are stated in the surveyor's books to be exempt, but that officer thinks 30 or 40 more may be exempt. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 3¾*d.* to 4½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 4*d.* to 4½*d.*; veal, 6*d.* to 7*d.*; bacon, 10*d.* to 1*s.*; fresh butter, 1*s.*; salt ditto, 9*d.*; potatoes, 8*d.* a peck; bread, 8*d.* the quartern loaf or 5½lbs. for 1*s.*; coal, 12*s.* a ton; wheat, 11*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* for 10 gallons; barley, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; oats, 4*s.*; milk, 1½*d.* a quart. Wages of common labourers, 1*s.* a day and victuals, or 1*s.* 6*d.* with only a dinner. 45 ale-houses, 5 friendly societies, each with about 80 members. All have their rules confirmed. In one the members pay a guinea a year into the box, for which a provision is made for their widows. No copy of the rules obtainable. Rent of land near the town, £3 to £4 10*s.* an acre, but at a distance £1. Farms from £25 to £250 a year, mostly in grass. Tithes belong to Duke of Beaufort, and are compounded. Land tax, about 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound. No commons or waste land. The Poor are maintained partly at home and partly in a Workhouse, where there are 24 inmates, viz., 3 children under 7, 12 between 7 and 30, 9 between 30 and 79, chiefly employed in making linen and woollen clothes for the house. The house is convenient, well aired and very clean. The beds, which are good, are furnished with coarse sheets, but no blankets, though some are preparing against next winter. There are 45 regular and 4 or 5 casual out-pensioners. It is supposed that the Poor do not really cost the parish more than a shilling in the pound on the fair rental, yet it is generally thought the rates are high. This is the bill of fare: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, milk pottage; other days, broth. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, meat and vegetables; other days, bread and cheese. Supper—every day, bread and beer.

Statement of a labourer's annual earnings and ex-

penses: Man aged 52, has a wife and 9 children, viz., a girl of 17 (subject to fits and unable to work), boy of 16 at service, another of 15 at home, and another of 14, 3 girls, 12, 10 and 8, another boy of 3, and another of 1½. The wife is pregnant. The father earns 8*s.* a week and beer, except in hay and corn harvest when he has 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and victuals, £21 3*s.*; the boy of 15 goes on errands and earns about 1*s.* a week, £2 12*s.*; the wife by baking bread for sale earns about £1 5*s.* Total, £25. Expenses: The man says bread costs him about 9*s.* a week throughout the year. and that he could use more if he could get it, £23 8*s.*; butter and cheese, about 6*d.* a week; he uses neither meat nor beer, £1 6*s.*; tea and sugar, about 4*d.* a week, 17*s.* 4*d.*; potatoes, 6*d.* a week, £1 6*s.*; fuel, 8*s.* 8*d.*; house rent, £2 2*s.*; soap, candles, thread, etc., about £1 6*s.* Total, £30 14*s.* Here appears a deficiency of £5 14*s.*, yet the man says his children mostly go without shoes and stockings, and the clothes worn by him and his family are mostly, if not wholly, given them by charitable people. The man's employer allows him about 3 pints of milk a day, which with a little bread serves his children for breakfast. His wife drinks tea. Their dinner is bread, potatoes and salt, sometimes a little fat or dripping, if it can be procured cheap. Their supper generally bread or potatoes. The man says his family is little more than half supplied with what they could eat. He rents his house of the Corporation of Monmouth at 2 guineas a year, but not being able to pay his rent, he says, all his working tools and some of his furniture were seized and sold, so that he has to borrow spades, axes, etc. He applied to the parish for relief, which was offered on condition that he would come into the house with all his family, which he has hitherto refused to do. From further enquiry it appears that the man is honest and industrious. He is determined to remain in his house, in defiance of the Corporation. His children, having been bred up in idleness and in the

most abject illiterate state (although several of them have been at service) are so saucy that no person will employ them.

There are 20 Alms-houses, 10 for men and 10 for women, each of whom receives 3*s* 6*d*. a week, and 15*s*. a year for coal, and one suit of clothes every 2 years. The people complain that the farmers do not bring their corn to market and ascribe the high price to badgers or corn dealers. In the neighbouring Forest of Dean, colliers collected together by thousands and came to Monmouth market, where they obliged the farmers to sell their corn at a reasonable price on which account a party of dragoons has been stationed here for some time.

NORFOLK

DOWNHAM is a small market town. The Poor are partly farmed. The contractor has the use of 4 acres of land and a Workhouse, in which he maintains such Poor as the parish send him, finding beds and clothing when they go into the house, but the farmer provides clothing during their residence with him. He is paid £95 a year, provided the number does not exceed 20, and for all above that number 2*s*. a week each. He is entitled to their earnings; they are employed in spinning jersey or worsted. One man weaves hemp cloth. At present (June, 1795) there are 26 inmates, viz., 7 under 9 years, 4 from 9 to 20, the rest from 25 to 70. There are 4 bastards and 3 soldiers' wives. The officers give weekly allowances to such Poor as can support themselves upon a less sum than what is charged by the master of the Poor-house. Prices of provisions nearly the same as in Lincolnshire, but the wages of agricultural labour are much lower.

GRESSINGHALL.—The House of Industry, belonging to the 50 parishes of the Hundreds of Thetford and Launditch, incorporated by 15 Geo. III. c. 59, stands n this parish. The house is excellently situated,

being built on rising ground at some distance from the village, half surrounded by a common, and with no obstructions near it to impede the free circulation of air. The house was finished and made ready for the reception of paupers in July, 1777. The expense of buying the land (63a. 3r. 3p.) and building and furnishing the house was £15,442 6*s.* 11*d.*, of which £5,442 has been repaid. The average number of inmates between 1777 and 1794 was 447. The number in June, 1795, was 539. It often happens that the same persons quit and re-enter the house 2 or 3 times a year. There are about 100 bastards in the house. The boys and girls, who form rather more than half the number of the inmates, are almost all less than 14, as at that age they are drafted out to the parishes to which they belong. The average amount of 7 years' disbursements for the Poor, beginning 10 years before the institution was the quota fixed to be furnished annually by each of the incorporated parishes, but the rates paid vary from 6*d.* to 3*s.* in the pound. The average may be 20*d.* The receipts, however, have been found insufficient to pay off the remainder of the debt, and it has been resolved to apply to Parliament for authority to increase the rate, which has led to considerable discontent. The men belonging to the House of Industry are employed in cultivating 60 acres of fields and gardens belonging to the house, in combing wool, dressing flax and hemp, and in weaving them into articles chiefly for use in the house. A few work on the public roads. The women and children are chiefly employed in spinning worsted for the Norwich manufactories. The boys and girls work in separate rooms, and each class has a master or mistress to superintend and instruct the learners in their work. Tow and hemp are also spun by the women. The house has a dairy of ten cows, and a windmill where all their corn is ground. They grind sometimes for their neighbours. Baking and brewing are also carried on. The yearly earnings

of the house between 1780 and 1794 varied from a little over £600 to a little over £900, but this includes wages for spinning, weaving, etc., for the use of the house. Men are allowed 1*d.* out of every shilling they earn, young women 7*d.*, and women above 60 4*d.*; but no person above 60 is obliged to work. Children receive little rewards according to their merit and industry. The following is the bill of fare: Breakfast —Sunday, milk broth or onion gruel; Monday, bread cheese and beer; Tuesday, Friday, onion or plain gruel; Wednesday, Saturday, bread and cheese or treacle and beer; Thursday, bread and cheese or butter with beer. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, boiled meat, dumplins, vegetables and beer; Monday, pease pottage, boiled in meat broth, and milk broth; Wednesday, frumenty or thick milk with bread; Thursday, baked suet puddings and beer; Saturday, milk pottage or onion gruel. Supper—Sunday, bread and cheese or treacle and beer; Monday, Wednesday, bread and cheese or butter and beer; Tuesday, Friday, broth and bread; Thursday, bread and cheese or treacle; Saturday, bread and cheese, some butter, or treacle and beer. Cabbages, carrots, turnips, potatoes, beans, etc., were served in great plenty during the season. The quantity of food allowed at each meal could not be ascertained, but the shares of dumplin for dinner, served up on Thursday, June 18, 1795, and share of bread at supper seemed abundantly sufficient, though the pieces of cheese were small. The house was originally intended to have two wings, but want of funds prevented this being executed, and there is very little spare room in the house at present. The apartments are lofty, well aired, and well adapted to the purposes for which they are intended. The boys and girls have separate bedrooms, and generally sleep three in a bed. About 20 beds in each room. Old people and a few others are allowed to reside in cottages, and some are provided with rooms on the ground floor.

The beds are of flocks, each has 2 sheets, 2 blankets, and one coverlet, and upon the whole the house seems as clean as can be expected. The governors are certainly very attentive to this object, but it is said that the continual influx and efflux of paupers make it impossible to keep the house free from vermin. The rules of the house require that the governor shall provide wormwood from time to time, to fumigate the rooms, and that it shall be used in washing the linen, and be laid in the beds, while another provides that the beds be sheeted once a month. A further rule required the governor and matron to cause the children's heads and hands to be kept clean, and also all the clothes and beds, and to deliver to every one of the Poor, clean linen on every Saturday evening, taking in their foul linen every Sunday morning. The prices of provisions in this district are : Beef, and mutton, 5*d.* per lb. ; pork, 6*d.* ; bacon, 8*d.* ; butter, 7*d.* ; flour, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.* the stone ; wheat, £3 10*s.* the quarter ; malt, £2 10*s.* ; barley, £1 12*s.* ; milk, of which very little is sold, 2*d.* per gallon. The wages of labourers are : For husbandry work, 1*s.* 2*d.* a day in winter, and 1*s.* 6*d.* in summer, without victuals ; women weeding corn, 6*d.* and 8*d.* a day, without victuals ; bricklayers, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day ; their assistants, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* Land tax varies much in different parishes. Instances may be found of a few small tracts paying 5*s.* or 6*s.* in the pound, and other parts not more than 2*d.* ; but 1*s.* in the pound seems to be about the average. Both in this and in the adjoining county of Lincoln, small shopkeepers, manufacturers, publicans and labouring people complain heavily against those whom they call monopolizers of corn, farming clergymen (who are not rare), and the consolidators of small farms. To the conduct of men of this description, the high price of provisions, the increase in the Poor's Rate, and almost every evil that attends or is likely to attend the nation, are not infrequently attributed.

HECKINGHAM.—The House of Industry here was erected in 1767. The original sum borrowed was £7,500. The annual assessments to be paid by the 41 incorporated parishes in the Hundreds of Loddon and Clavering were fixed at the average expenditure of the 7 years immediately preceding their incorporation. In 1786 the whole debt was paid off, and the rates reduced from £2,132 to £1,986, and afterwards to £1,866. The high price of provisions, the lowness of wages for spinning and the late severe seasons, have so much increased the number of the necessitous that it has been found necessary to raise the rates to the original figure. The following table deals with the earnings and expenditure in the house :

Year	No. of inmates	Earnings			Expenditure		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1789	199	219	7	10	2,230	11	8
1790	233	256	13	9¾	2,324	10	5
1791	245	305	2	8½	2,223	11	11
1792	224	302	4	5	2,047	2	6
1793	214	234	0	10	2,094	10	8½
1794	239	189	16	1½	2,261	4	11

The bill of fare is as follows : Breakfast—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, bread and cheese and butter or treacle ; other days, milk and water gruel and bread. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, dumplins, butcher's meat and bread ; Monday, Friday, broth and bread ; Tuesday, baked suet puddings ; Wednesday, dumplins and milk broth, or milk and water gruel ; Saturday, bread and cheese or butter. Supper —every day, bread and cheese or butter. The men are allowed a pint of beer each at every meal except when they have broth or gruel. Women with children at the breast have the same allowance, others have two-thirds of a pint. The Poor here are not subject to any peculiar disorder, though a very fatal putrid fever is now raging in the neighbourhood. Mr. Howlett informs us that in 1774, 126 inmates died out of 220, and that before 1788 the average annual deaths of

children in the house was about 1 in 8. In 1791 representations were made to the directors and guardians that the weekly charges for provisions for the last three years were very high compared with those for former years, without sufficient apparent reason. A committee was appointed to examine the expenditure, and from their report published in 1793, it appears that the books of the house had been kept in a very vague and loose manner. No entries had been made of clothes delivered to the different paupers, and that the amount of provisions delivered each week was ascertained by taking stock every Sunday night, and charging the deficit as weekly expenditure. The Committee recommended the directors to dismiss the governor as a person perfectly incompetent to fulfil the duties of his office. The resolution was not adopted, but the governor resigned at Michaelmas, 1792, because he "too well knew the inveterate prejudices which some few entertained against him. to expect any peace or happiness from a continuance in his present situation." Not much information can be derived from the report as several of the facts were disputed by the opposite party, but some idea of the weekly charges may be formed from the following extracts for certain weeks in 1790: 1, Number of inmates, 246. Meal, 91st. at 1*s* 6*d*.; flour, 26st. at 2*s*.; beef, 21st. at 4*s*. 1½*d*.; pork, 6st. 7lbs. at 4*s*.; cheese, 23st. 7lbs. at 2*s*.; total cost, £22 18*s*. 10¼*d*. 2, Inmates 243. Meal, 86st.; flour, 25st.; meat, 27st. at 4*s*.; cheese, 22st. 7lbs.; total cost, £22 5*s*. 2½*d*. 3, Inmates, 253. Meal, 81st.; flour, 25st. at 2*s*. 1¾*d*.; meat, 28st.; cheese, 22st.; total cost, £21 19*s*. 10½*d*. 4, Inmates 258. Meal, 84st.; flour, 25st.; beef, 28st. 7lbs. at 4*s*.; pork, 1st. at 4*s*; cheese, 24st.; total cost, £22 17*s*. 8*d*.

Norwich.—This city, containing 32 parishes and 3 or 4 hamlets, is incorporated for the maintenance of its Poor. The population is estimated at 40,000. The number of houses paying tax is 2,200, number exempt

not ascertained. Alehouses, 370. Rent of land near the town is £5, but farms in general are let at £1 an acre. Trade in Norwich has for some years been in a declining state, due to the prevalent taste for wearing cottons instead of stuffs which is the staple trade of Norwich; the low wages of the weavers and spinners who are in a considerable degree at the mercy of the manufacturers, and are not supposed to receive more in pay than they did 20 years ago; and to the war, which has stopped trade with France, Flanders, and Holland, and restricted it with other countries from the high rate of insurance. When business was brisk, an industrious weaver might earn £1 1*s.* a week from fine work, and 12*s.* from coarser work. The average now is thought to be not more than 7*s.* or 8*s.* Women weavers earn 5*s.* to 6*s.* a week, but females are principally employed in spinning, reeling, winding, etc., at which they earn from 2*s.* to 4*s.* a week. Children earn about 2*s* a week. Women's and children's wages have of late years been very low, but for the last month has been rather brisk from a notion that peace is not very distant. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; veal, 4*d.* to 5*d.*; pork, from 7*d.* to 8*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; milk, ¾*d.* per pint; eggs, two a penny. The Poor are maintained principally in two large Workhouses, one formerly a palace of the Duke of Norfolk, and the other a monastery It is not surprising, therefore, that they should be in many respects extremely unfit for the purpose to which they are now applied. The latter, more especially, is dark and confined, and from the great number of paupers in it (about 700) exhibits rather an uncleanly appearance. There are about 40 beds, generally of straw, in each room. The Poor receive their food in a room downstairs, and eat their dinner and supper in their bedrooms. They are chiefly women and children, and are employed in schools, in spinning worsted. The mortality has been considerably lessened by several

improvements made in 1783 for ventilating the rooms, removing nuisances, and newly arranging the offices. About the same period, at the suggestion of Mr. Rigby, a guardian, a special provision committee, was appointed which introduced several reforms in the diet of the Poor, not without considerable clamour on their part, who were persuaded that no economy could be effected without making their allowances less ample, less wholesome, or less palatable than before: 1, It was found that bakers' bread was infinitely superior to Workhouse bread, which, the report said, seemed to be made principally of bran, and to be much too ordinary for common food, though bakers' bread was much cheaper; 2, It was found that an allowance of 4oz. butter to each person instead of 12oz. cheese, would lead to an annual saving of £306; cheese was discontinued, and the weekly shares of butter increased to 4oz.; 3, Great abuses were found to exist in the allotment of beef, flour and beer. In Jan., 1774, 1,478 paupers consumed 496st. beef, 9,370 quartern loaves of bread, 552st. flour, and 128 barrels of beer; cost, £532 10*s.* 8*d.* In Jan., 1784, 1,231 paupers consumed 466½st. beef, 9,250 quartern loaves of bread, 580st. flour, 135 barrels of beer; cost, £548 18*s.* 11¼*d.* To correct this, the guardians ordered that the quantity of provisions for one week for 692 persons, the number then in the new Workhouse, should be as follows, to be increased or diminished according to the number in the house: Bread, 1,917 coarse loaves, 213 fine loaves (total 2,130); flour, 67st.; oatmeal, 10½ pecks; beer, 15 barrels; beef, 60st. 4, In April, 1784, 486 dumplins, weighing 13oz. each, were served three times a week to 677 persons. The expense was: 19st. flour at 1*s.* 9½*d.* =£1 4*s.* 2½*d*; 3 galls. yeast at 1*s.*=3*s.*; 1lb. salt, 2*d.*; 3 persons' time who make them and have a dumplin extra, 1*s.* 6*d.*; total, £1 18*s.* 10½*d.* It was found that by buying dough from a baker, dumplins of 13½oz. each would cost £1 13*s.* 5*d.* less for 486 than the

Workhouse dumplins, giving the Poor a dumplin ½oz. heavier, and effecting a yearly saving of £42 11*s.* 6*d.* 5, The manner in which the food was served was a source of great waste, and the total quantity distributed much exceeded what was eaten by persons in perfect health. Thus on Sunday, April 11, 1784, 77 persons had 10 oz. beef each, 26 had 11oz., 42 had 12, and 26 had 8. Total, 1,768oz. On the assumption that 8oz. meat cooked and without bone equals 14oz. uncooked, and with bone this amount of 1,768oz. is equivalent to 18oz. per head of uncooked butcher's meat, which at 4*d.* per lb. comes to 4½*d.* for each person, and with bread, beer and the expense of cooking, comes to 6*d.* per person. Similarly the amount served on Tuesday, April 13, 1784, turned out to be 18¾oz. per head, and the cost at least 6*d.* per person. On Thursday, April 22, 1784, the amount proved to be 19½oz. per head, which with bread, etc., as before, may be estimated at almost 7*d.* for each person's meal. In the old Workhouse the amount served to each person must have been, according to the calculation made, at least 1¾lbs., which at 4*d.* per lb. comes to 7*d.* each, and with bread, beer, and expenses of cooking, to have cost 9*d.* per person. From the above account, it is evident that the dinners of the above number of persons three times a week cost more than if the Poor were to dine at a cook's shop or a public house, and it is well known that many respectable artificers dine at such places for less money and that the quantity for each person exceeds considerably the proportions of what is usually eaten at the tables of most private families. The extravagance of this will be further proved by observing that these three meals cost more than 21 meals in several Houses of Industry in this county do. To prevent this waste the committee proposed that the Poor should all dine together in two large rooms in the Workhouse, by which they would be more equally fed, the generally consumption of food considerably

lessened, the practice of selling provisions stopped, and instead of the custom of eating upon the beds (which was a source of dirt), the whole number of paupers would be collected together, once a day, in a decent and orderly manner, and the real number in the house more easily ascertained. The plan of making the Poor dine together was not adopted, but an alteration was made in the meat dinners, from which it appears that the Sunday dinner for 171 persons was 1,768 oz. boiled beef without bone, and cost £2 15*s*. A soup was substituted, made of 70lbs. cheeks at 2*s*. the stone, 43 galls. water, 2 pecks old pease at 1*s*., 4½lb. onions at 1*d*., 4¾ pints oatmeal at 1½*d*., 3¾oz. pepper at 1½*d*., 5 crusts of loaves burnt, 1¾*d*., 1¾lbs. salt 2*d*., thyme 1*d*. Total cost, 13*s*. 9¾*d*. 6, It was stated that the beer brewed in the Workhouse cost 7*s*. 3*d*. a barrel, and brewers' beer 5*s*. This was found to be as good, and was adopted, affecting a saving of £210 12*s*. a year. The savings resulting from these reforms came to £5,954 in three years. Notwithstanding these savings, the expenses for the Poor have considerably increased, probably due to the war and other causes, which have caused a great stagnation of trade in Norwich. Thus the relief to the Out-Poor in 1784 cost £2,318 10*s*. 11*d*., and in 1794 £7,327 9*s*. 11*d*., but although the number of inmates rose from 1,301 in 1784 to 1,406 in 1794, the cost of their clothing and maintenance fell from £10,204 13*s*. to £9,240 9*s*. 2*d*., notwithstanding the high price of every article of subsistence.

There are about 40 friendly societies in Norwich, most of which have taken the benefit of the late Act. The number of members is from 18 to 30 and 40. They are not much encouraged by honorary members. One society, established in 1775 and known as the Scots Society, is for the purpose of relieving poor Scotchmen. The motive is to supply an omission in the English law, respecting which it is said that "a stranger coming into England and not having obtained a proper parish

settlement, is not entitled to parish relief ; that nobody is obliged to relieve him ,but that they might let him starve " (Burn's Justice, Title Settlements). In 1778 it was agreed that the charity of the society should be extended to all subjects of Great Britain and the natives of foreign countries residing in England, when in distress ; and in 1784 the society took the additional name of " The Society of Universal Goodwill." From an account published in 1784 it appears that the following persons had been relieved since 1778 : Natives of Scotland, 111 ; Ireland, 29 ; France, 1 ; America, 14 ; Germany, 5 ; Italy, 8 ; Turkey, 3 ; Prussia, 2 ; Barbary, 2 ; Norway, 1 ; Hungary, 1 ; Sweden, 1 ; Jewesses, 2. Persons who could give no positive account to what parishes they belonged, 4. Wives and children of the above and single women, 172. Total, 356. Since 1784 many other persons have been relieved.

YARMOUTH is supposed to contain about 13,000 inhabitants, about 40 of whom are engaged in making sail cloth. There is no other manufacture. The principal employments are those connected with a seafaring life. There are 137 ale-houses. 750 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions : Beef, mutton, lamb, from 5*d.* to 6*d.* per lb. ; veal, 4*d.* to 6*d.* ; pork, 6*d.* to 7*d.* ; bacon, 10*d.* ; butter, 1*s.* for 20oz. ; milk, 1*d.* per pint ; wheat, £3 15*s.* a quarter ; barley, £1 13*s.* ; oats, £1 11*s.* ; flour, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.* a stone. Common labourers have 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and victuals. Men employed in fishing, in loading and unloading vessels, etc., work by the piece, and sometimes earn 3*s.* or 4*s.* a day. It is thought that 20 friendly societies existed before the last Act was passed, composed chiefly of the poorest class, who thought that the funds were intended to be at the disposal of the magistrates. They agreed, therefore, to break up and divide the stock. Three now remain and these have not taken the benefit of the Act. The members

ship in each is about 30 or 40. Little land is rented except for gardens. Tithes are taken thus: Horses and cows, 6*d.* a head a year; windmills, 10*s.* Land tax about 3*s.* 8*d.* in the pound. There is one charity school for 30, and another for 50 poor children The latter adjoins the Workhouse, and is supplied with victuals from thence at the rate of 1*s.* 9*d.* a week for each child. There is a hospital for 20 poor fishermen, who have each two rooms and coals allowed them, with 2*s.* a week in summer and 2*s.* 6*d.* in winter. Wheaten bread is universally used in Norfolk. The Poor all along this coast live much on fish, which is generally very cheap. The Poor are chiefly maintained in a Poor-house, where they are employed in making nets for mackerel and other small sea fish. A few spin worsted. There are about 15 or 16 beds in each room, mostly of feathers, placed close together. Boys, girls, men and women have separate rooms. The married, of whom there are not many, have separate rooms. There are two rooms for the sick, well aired but not distinct from the main building. There is a good dining-room, and suitable conveniences for cooking, but the lodging rooms and staircases are not well planned or in the best order. From the great number of people sleeping in a room close together, many disagreeable circumstances must frequently happen, besides the general injury to health. There are 65 men, 148 women, 40 boys and 42 girls in the house.

Table of diet: Breakfast—Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, bread and butter; Monday, Thursday, bread and treacle; Tuesday, Friday, bread and broth. Dinner—Sunday, suet pudding; Monday, Thursday, boiled meat, dumplins and vegetables; Tuesday, Friday, pease soup and bread; Wednesday, Saturday, milk or gruel and bread. Supper—every day, bread and cheese. At every meal, except when there is milk broth or gruel, one pint of beer is allowed to each person who wishes to have it, Rice, milk, wine, etc.,

are allowed to the sick. Mutton and veal are allowed to the sick every Sunday

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Brixworth contains 3,300 acres, 150 houses, and 800 inhabitants. 36 houses pay tax, about 114 exempt. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 5*d*. per lb.; veal, 4*d*.; bacon, 10*d*.; milk, 1*d*. per quart; potatoes, 3*s*. per bush.; butter, 9*d*. per lb.; and near 4lb. of bread for 1*s*.; coals, 20*d*. per cwt. Labourers in winter have 14*d*. a day, with a little beer, or bread and milk. In spring and part of the summer they have 8*s*. a week with beer, etc., and for the harvest month they are paid 45*s*. Women earn from 4*d*. to 6*d* a day by spinning jersey Some years ago they earned 6*d* to 10*d*. a day, but wages are now lower than formerly. There are 6 ale-houses, and one friendly society with about 60 members. Their rules have not been confirmed. Average rent of land, about 27*s*. an acre. Farms, from £40 to £100 a year; some as high as £500. No commons. The common fields were enclosed in 1780, when land was given in lieu of tithe. Land tax is about 13*d*. in the pound, and paid by the landlord. The Poor have mostly an allowance at home. At present 34 poor people, most of whom have families, receive £3 10*s*. 9*d*. a week; 12 families have casual relief, amounting to 12*s*. a week. In 1794 a sort of Poor-house was established, in which some of the Poor reside, without the control of a master, the parish allowing them necessaries. In August, 1795, there were 5 in the house, costing the parish about 12*s*. a week. About £60 were collected for the Poor in the winter of 1794-5. They likewise receive the rent of a small estate, which amounts to £20. Coals valued at £40 are bought and sold them at a reduced rate. The Poor Rate, which in 1783 was 1*s*. in the pound, was 2*s*. in 1795.

KETTERING.—The Poor here are very numerous, the rates very high, and expected to increase. It is thought that next year (1796) they will be 13*s.* or 14*s.* in the pound in the net rental. 145 families received relief at home in July, 1795. The usual allowance to each individual is 1*s.* a week; the total sum £11 3*s.* a week. Above 250 houses out of 600 are exempt from tax. The trade of the town is in woollens, but since the war trade has declined; for 1*s.* work a spinner now only gets 8*d.* A man who could earn 14*s.* a week in the woollen business 3 years ago (1792), cannot now get more than 7*s.* About 400 men have entered the militia, and nearly as many the army. The land about Kettering is chiefly in open field, and produces rich crops of corn. The townspeople are opposed to enclosures, which they think will raise the price of provisions, from the land being turned into pasture, as was the case in Leicestershire. Near 100 persons (men, women and children) are maintained in the Workhouse, which can hold 200. It is under the care of a man who is allowed 8*s.* a week, besides his board, and a matron, who is allowed 2*s.* a week and board. Three inmates usually sleep in a bed. The boys and girls are employed in spinning wool, which is used in a neighbouring manufactory of tammies. The loss on the business is about £40 a year, and is paid by the parish.

Table of diet: Breakfast—every day, gruel or milk porridge. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, hot boiled beef ½lb., ½pt. beer, ½lb. bread, and vegetables to each person; Monday, Friday, ⅛oz. cheese, ½lb. bread, ½pt. small beer, and milk porridge to each person; Wednesday, baked suet puddings, no bread, ½pt. beer; Saturday, sometimes baked suet puddings or bread and cheese, or stewed legs and shanks of beef. Supper—every day, ¾lb. bread, ⅛oz. cheese, ½pt. beer to each person The bread is made at home. About 6 weeks ago (May or June, 1795), in consequence of the dearness

of wheat, barley bread, much resembling the black bread of France, but superior in taste, was substituted. Beef, mutton and veal are used occasionally. All the beer is brewed at home, and, as hogs are kept, the Poor sometimes have salt pork for dinner. A small garden provides them with cabbages and potatoes.

The Poor were farmed from 1763 to 1769. As money is wanted for the Poor, it is raised by a levy of 1*s.* in the pound. In 1776 and in 1789 a shilling levy raised £131. In 1794, £153. There is a charity in Kettering of about £15 a year for binding boys apprentices. A friendly society or two meet in Kettering. They allow 6*s.* a week to members when sick, but if the illness lasts over a year they are thrown on the parish. The labouring people seem anxious that gentlemen should encourage the clubs by becoming honorary members.

NORTHAMPTON has 680 houses paying tax. Number exempt not ascertained, but probably not more than 500. In the parish of All Saints 408 pay tax, and 384 are exempt. The number of inhabitants could not be ascertained, but it appears that the population has been nearly stationary for some years. In the parish of All Saints, between 1735 and 1781, 4,689 persons died, of whom 1,529 were under 2 years of age; and 22 between 90 and 100. Northampton was formerly a very busy manufacturing town; a considerable quantity of shoes was made here, but that business has much declined. Very little is done in the woollen trade at present. There are a few wool combers, and jersey spinners, and about 100 women and children are employed in a cotton factory, where they earn from 2*s.* to 5*s.* a week. Shoe makers earn from 10*s.* to 15*s.* a week; wool combers from 9*s.* to 12*s.*; lace makers, of whom there was once a great number in Northampton, can earn by hard working from 1*d.* to 1½*d.* an hour, but their wages have of late years much decreased. Common labourers earn from 14*d.* to 18*d.* a day. Prices of provisions: Beef, 4⅓*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*;

veal, 4½*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; butter, 10*d.*; milk, 1*d.* the quart short measure; potatoes, 4*d.* the gallon; coals, 15*d.* per bush. There are 29 inns, and 42 ale-houses in Northampton, and 7 friendly societies, all of which have had their rules confirmed by the magistrates. The Poor in All Saints are partly maintained in a Workhouse, and partly at home. The average number in the house is estimated at 70. In August, 1795, there were only 40, mostly old infirm people, lunatics and children. The latter are employed in spinning jersey, the old men in making shoes. Their earnings altogether amount to about £85 or £90 a year. The children are taught to read, and at 12 or 14 are bound apprentices, generally to some of the northern cotton manufacturers, till they are 21; and girls at a proportionate age sent to service. The Workhouse was not originally designed for the purpose to which it is now applied, and is therefore in some respects very inconvenient. It is however very clean and neat, and the Poor live there comfortably under the direction of a very proper person. The beds are fitted with flocks and straw. The high walls which encompass the narrow courts being capped with spikes, give the place a great resemblance to a prison. In this Workhouse, as in most others, the earnings seem to be chiefly produced by children. Bill of fare: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, milk pottage; other days, broth and bread. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, broth, beef, bread, and vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, bread, cheese, and beer; Thursday, broth, mutton, bread, and vegetables. Supper—every day, bread, cheese, and beer. The victuals are not weighed, but the Poor have generally as much bread and meat as they can eat. One pint of beer is allowed to each adult at bread and cheese meals. Children are allowed in proportion to their age. 137 poor people, most of whom have families, receive £10 6*s.* 6*d.* weekly from the parish

The parish of St. Giles, Northampton, contains by estimation 400 acres of land, which were enclosed from the common fields in 1779, and 205 houses. 39 out-pensioners receive £3 11*s.* 6*d.* a week. There are 8 paupers in the Workhouse, where they are employed spinning jersey, and earn about £20 a year. The bill of fare is similar to that of All Saints' Workhouse.

ROADE contains about 1,300 acres, and 370 inhabitants. 21 houses pay tax, 54 are exempt. 3 ale-houses. Price of provisions the same as in Northampton. Wages vary, but are generally in winter and spring about 1*s.* a day, with breakfast and beer; in corn harvest, 40*s.* the month and board. If the harvest exceeds the month, wages are 1*s.* a day and board till it is ended. Lace workers earn from 6*d.* to 1*s.* or 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, but generally 8*d.* to 10*d.* Women are never employed in reaping, and it is rare to see them milk a cow. A servant maid of 20 years has about £3 a year in a farmer's service; a man of the same age, £6 to £9; masons, 2*s.* a day with beer; joiners, from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week; a common carpenter, 1*s.* a day and board. The parish, except about 160 acres, is in common field. The average rent, about 10*s.* 6*d.* or 12*s.* an acre. Farms, chiefly about £30 or £40 a year. Tithes are taken in kind. Land tax, about 1*s.* 11*d.* in the pound. There is a small common of about 100 acres shared with two other parishes. The Poor receive an allowance at home. There are 13 regular pensioners, some with families, but several others have occasional relief.

This is the statement of the earnings and expenses of a labourer's family in this parish: Richard Walker, 36, has a wife and 5 children, viz., girl of 9, boy of 7, boy of 6, boy of 3, and another child of 1. The man in winter and spring earns 1*s.* a day, and breakfast and beer, when he works by the day; when he works by the piece, 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a day; in hay time, 10*s.* 6*d.* a week, with beer; harvest, 40*s.* a month. Earnings

by the above, £20. Ringing church bell twice daily, £1 6s. As a barber and grave digger, £1. His wife is a lace maker, earning £1 6s. Three children at lace school, besides paying for thread and schooling, earn about £1 6s. The family by gleaning in harvest earn £1 10s. Total, £26 8s. Expenses: Bread (formerly 5s. a week, now 7s. or 8s.), £13; butcher's meat (till lately 2s. a week, now 2s. 6d.), £5 4s.; beer (about a gallon a week), 17s. 4d.; butter, ½lb. a week at 8d. per lb., 17s 4d; tea and sugar, £2 7s. 6d.; cheese, potatoes, and milk, of which very little is used, £1 10s.; soap, candles, etc., 15s.; shoes, 25s.; shirts, 12s.; other clothes, 10s.; house rent (the house is the Duke of Grafton's), 8s.; wife's lyings-in (say once in two years or yearly), 10s. Total, £27 16s. 2d. Deficit, £1 8s. 2d., although everything is taken at the old prices. The man does not receive any parochial assistance, but his neighbours, who know him to be industrious and careful, give him old clothes, etc. He has sometimes been assisted by his landlord. No account has been taken of his expenses for fuel (wood), which he says cost him 50s. a year, so the real deficiency is £3 18s. He has the character of an honest, industrious man. The Poor make a great deal by gleaning here; several families will gather as much wheat as will serve them for bread the whole year, and as many beans as will keep a pig. Agriculture here is in a wretched state, from the land being in common fields; the farmers are often at a great loss for hay; their cows in summer must be herded on the headlands in the day time, and confined in the night. Their crops of corn are scanty, and the land by constant tillage becomes almost exhausted. In short, they are of opinion that, were their lands enclosed and their rents doubled, they would be considerable gainers It is said, however, that some great proprietors object to the measure. The produce of the rates, which have varied betewen 1784 and 1795 from 2s. 3d. in the pound to 3s. 6d., is all applied to the

use of the Poor, with the exception of two guineas a year, which are paid to the county infirmary. Most of the parishes in this neighbourhood consist of open field. In some, where the land is old enclosure, the rates are from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. A donation of £4 a year is annually distributed to the Poor of this parish. The assessments are said to be at full rental.

YARDLY GOBEN is in the parish of Perry. It contains by estimation 1,100 acres and about 500 inhabitants, who are agriculturists and lace makers. 24 houses pay tax, 79 exempted. Prices of provisions: Beef, 4*d.* and 4½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; bacon, 9*d.*; butter, 10*d.* and 11*d.*; very little milk is sold; potatoes, 2*s.* 6*d.* the bushel; coals, 1*s.* 11*d.* the cwt. Common labourers' wages are from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d* a day in winter, without diet, and nearly the same in spring; in hay time, 20*d.* or 2*s.* a day; in harvest, 40*s.* or 44*s.* a month, with board. Carpenters and masons are paid 2*s.* a day. Wages have risen very considerably this year (1795). Much work is done by the piece, a mode of working which labourers here generally prefer. In winter sometimes 9 or 10 labourers, out of employ, go round from house to house for work, the rule being that every person whose rent is £20 or more shall in his turn employ a man one day, and give him 1*s.*, but no victuals. Women do very little out of doors, except during harvest, when they go out to glean in great numbers. Lace makers earn from 6*d.* to 14*d.* a day; average 8*d.* There are two ale-houses. Rent of land, from 18*s.* to 20*s.* Farms, from £40 to £200, but mostly about £100 or £140. Nearly the whole of this township was enclosed in 1776, when one-seventh of the land was allotted to the Church in lieu of tithe. The land tax is 2*s.* 5½*d.* in the pound. The inhabitants of this township, and of several adjoining parishes, claim a right of depasturing cattle on Wicklewood Forest, a tract of about 7 or 8,000 acres. In this township is a sort of Workhouse, in which there are at present only

2 persons. The manager of the house finds such Poor as the township may send him in victuals and fuel, for which he receives 3*s.* a week for each person. The township provides clothes, beds and other furniture. 28 poor people, most of whom have families, receive weekly at present 57*s.* 7*d.* Among them are 13 widows. a few persons have occasional relief. The total disbursement from the Poor's Rates, between 1788 and 1795, have varied from about £203 to about £256, on a rate varying from 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* at nearly full rental. All the money, except about £10 or £12 for the constable, is expended on the Poor. It is said. that the Poor's Rates between 30 and 40 years before were about £30 a year. A great number of women are lace workers, and generally in their younger days earn a good livelihood, but, being a business which requires a good sight, it at length much affects the eyes, so that when they grow old, not being accustomed to any other work, they often become necessitous. Many people of this parish attribute the rise in the rates to the enclosure of the common fields, "because" (say they) "before the enclosure took place, farms were from £10 to £40 a year, and any person could then rent a small tenement, but now, the parish being mostly thrown into large farms, it requires very considerable capital to stock one." This circumstance reduces numbers to the necessity of living in a state of servile dependence on the large farmers, and as they have no prospect to which their hopes can reasonably look forward, their industry is checked, economy is deprived of its greatest stimulative, and their only thought is to enjoy the present moment.

NORTHUMBERLAND

NEWCASTLE contains, exclusive of the out townships, four parishes. There is very little land not built on, so that the Poor's Rates are chiefly raised from houses.

The number of assessed houses is 2,516; the number exempted must be considerably greater. Pit men in the coal mines earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a day, on an average about 16*s.* a week. They are also allowed rye from their masters at 4*s.* the bushel. Notwithstanding these high wages, they are seldom richer than their neighbours. They use a great deal of butcher's meat during the three or four first days of the week, but towards the close they are generally obliged to live more abstemiously. All accounts state that few of them ever continue to be beforehand in the world. Keel men, of whom 6 or 7,000 are constantly employed in navigating keels, with coal from the collieries on the Tyne to Shields, are paid from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week. Sailors in time of war are paid from 6 to 11 guineas for a voyage to London, which is often performed in a month or less. Common labourers earn 9*s.* a week. Price of butcher's meat is from 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; butter from 14*d.* to 15*d.* for 21oz. The price of other articles is as in North and South Shields. The land tax is said to be low, but no accurate account could be obtained. It is a very tender subject, and many (in other respects enlightened) persons have refused to give any information respecting it. In the vicinity of Newcastle, land lets from 15*s.* to £3 an acre. There is a common of 1,000 acres belonging to the corporation. In May, 1795, at the general licensing, 196 ale-houses were licensed. Since then 3 or 4 have been discontinued. Each parish maintains its own Poor. In All Saints, 150 paupers, of whom 55 are children under 12, are relieved in a Poor-house. The children are chiefly employed in a pin factory, and earn 1*s.* a week; the others (mostly old people or prostitutes) pick oakum and earn weekly 4*d.* or 5*d.* each. 231 families of out-pensioners receive £59 7*s.* a month.

Bill of fare in All Saints' parish: Breakfast—every day, hasty pudding and milk or beer (one pint of beer or ¾ pint of milk allowed to each person). Dinner—

Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, beef, pease pudding, broth and bread; Monday, Thursday, pease soup and 7oz. bread; Tuesday, Saturday, barley milk, no bread. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, broth and 7oz. bread; Monday, Thursday, milk and water and oatmeal boiled; Tuesday, Saturday, milk or beer and bread. The allowance of bread was lately reduced from 10oz. to 7oz. each person. About 23 stone of meal are used each week.

In St. Andrew's parish there are 27 persons in the Poor-house, and 131 weekly pensioners. In St. John's Poor-house there are 34 paupers. 39 families receive out-relief. In St. Nicholas' Poor-house there are 56 persons, principally employed in picking oakum. Their earnings are very small. The house is remarkably clean. Each pauper costs about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. Bill of fare in St. Nicholas Poor-house: Breakfast—every day, hasty pudding and milk. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, beef and potatoes; Monday, Thursday, Saturday, white bread and milk; Tuesday, Friday, cold milk and bread. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, bread and broth; other days, milk boiled with oatmeal. The weeky consumption of rye bread (exclusive of wheaten bread to boil with the milk) is 3cwt. There are 148 families of out-pensioners in this parish, but very little information about them could be gained from the parish officers. The rates in All Saints' parish, which were 1*s.* in the pound in 1767-8 and 1768-9, and 1*s.* 6*d.* in 1771-2 and the two following years, rose to 4*s.* in 1782-3, to 4*s.* 4*d.* in 1793-4, to 5*s.* 2*d.* in 1794-5, and in 1795-6 to 6*s.* In St. Andrew's the rates 1794 to 1796 varied from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* In St. John's the rates were 3*s.* 3*d.* (four years before only 1*s.* 9*d.*), and in St. Nicholas' about 4*s.* 4*d.*, or four-fifths of the net rental. The parish of Gateshead, though in the county of Durham, may be considered as part of Newcastle. In 1773 the Poor of this parish were farmed for £250. The casual Poor, it is supposed, cost about £100 more. At present

(March, 1796) the rates are 3*s.* in the pound on the full rental. The contractor is allowed 2*s.* a head for all paupers in the house, and their earnings. The parish have in addition given him this year (1796) a gratuity of £10, but it is supposed that he will be a considerable loser by his bargain. The Poor-house was formerly an Alms-house, and is neither very convenient nor very clean. The beds are chiefly of straw, and 6 or 8 in each room.

Bill of fare in Gateshead Poor-house: Breakfast—Sunday, Wednesday, bread and frumenty; Monday, Thursday, bread and broth; Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, crowdie and milk. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, beef and pease pudding or mutton and potatoes; Monday, Thursday, Saturday, wheaten bread and milk boiled; Tuesday, rye bread and cold milk; Friday, white pease pottage and bread Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, bread and broth; Monday, Thursday, Friday, bread and milk pottage; Tuesday, Saturday, frumenty and bread. There are 48 paupers in the house. 261 poor families, estimated to contain 2½ persons each on an average, receive weekly pensions.

There are 26 friendly societies in Newcastle, each with about 100 members. 13 have had their rules confirmed by the magistrates. Among the rules of the society of Flax-dressers (established in 1772) are the following: 7, Every member that is not able to follow or work at his trade or calling, on giving notice to the stewards shall be paid every week five shillings during the space of 26 weeks, but if he shall continue any longer and be not able to follow his business, he then shall only receive three shillings per week whilst such time as he recovers, or to the time of his death, and those members that receive only three shillings per week may endeavour to get what they legally can, provided it do not interfere with their trade or calling; but if any member be known to work at his trade and at the same time receives the benefit of the society, he shall be

excluded; 17, To prevent evasions of the seventh article, it was agreed (in 1778) that if any member after having received sick money for any period under 26 weeks should declare off the box, he should earn at least 7*s*. a week for three weeks, or otherwise be excluded for 26 weeks from receiving the usual benefit from the box, and that the weeks of his former sickness should be reckoned up with those of his second declaration till they amounted to 26 weeks; after which period he was only to receive 3*s*. a week during life, or until his recovery; but that if any member after declaring off the book should earn 7*s*. a week for 3 weeks, should be entitled to the usual benefit on falling sick again. The stewards were to enquire whether the 7*s*. a week were truly earned, and if a member deceived the society in this point, he was to be excluded The usual diet of miners, keel-men and other labourers in and near Newcastle is hasty pudding and crowdie for breakfast; butcher's meat (whenever they can procure it), much butter, bread made of wheat, and rye or barley and malt liquor for dinner and supper. It is probable that the number of inhabitants of Newcastle and suburbs, including Gateshead, exceeds 40,000.

North Shields contains almost 600 acres. The population has never been taken, but may be estimated at 10,000. About 740 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Number of ale-houses, 97. Common labourers receive 12*s*. a week in summer and 10*s*. a week in winter, masons 15*s*., joiners 15*s*., colliers, 15*s*. to 18*s*. Prices of provisions are: Mutton, 5*d*. per lb.; veal, 6*d*.; butter, 14*d* for 22oz.; oatmeal, 2*s*. 6d. per st.; fine flour, 4*s*. 2*d*. per st.; second sort, 3*s*. 11*d*.; potatoes, 11*s*. for 20 stone; new milk, ¼*d*. the pint; old milk, 1*d*. for 3 pints, in summer it is rather cheaper. There are 4 friendly societies with about 100 members each. Rent of land is from £2 to £3 an acre. Farms from £100 to £200 a year. No commons. Tithes compounded for. The Poor of this township and

seven others in the parish are farmed by a contractor for £600 a year, for which he undertakes to maintain all the Poor in and out of the house. In consequence of the late dearness of provisions, this sum was found inadequate, and the township made him a present of £60. The house stands in an airy situation and is built upon a pretty good plan, but seems to be dirty. The beds are of chaff. The inmates are 96, of whom 53 belong to this township. The annual deaths vary from 1-8th to 1-10th of the average number of paupers in the house. A fever prevails here, and has carried off several persons. 123 families out of the house, of whom 60 belong to this township, receive £11 weekly. The township is also burdened with the families of 76 impressed men; their usual weekly allowance is 9*d*. for the wife and 1*s*. each child per week. The Poor's Rates in North Shields were 2*s*. 6*d*. and 3*s* in the pound (on ⅔ of the net rental) for several years before the war. Since then they have been 4*s*. till about June, 1795, when they rose to 6*s*. It is said that 24 years before the rate did not exceed £340 (£1,200 in 1796). Every township in the parish maintains its own Poor, and of course there is great variation in their respective disbursements. In Tynmouth the rates are about 3*s*. In Cullercoates, which has little land, and is mostly inhabited by fishermen, they are 9*s*. In another township, chiefly agricultural, the name of which has been forgotten, they are 1*s*. Bill of fare in North Shields Poor-house: Breakfast—every day except Monday and Friday, hasty pudding and milk; other days, bread and broth. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, beef, broth, bread and vegetables; Monday, Friday, hash or milk boiled with white bread; Tuesday, dumplins and puddings or fish and bread; Wednesday, pease soup and meat; Saturday, milk boiled with white bread. Supper—Sunday, Thursday, bread and broth; Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, bread and milk; Wednesday, milk, potatoes and bread.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NEWARK contains 800 acres and a population estimated at 7,000. 605 houses pay tax, about 500 exempt. The cotton manufacture is the principal business in this parish. A mill for making cotton thread for stockings employs about 300, chiefly women and children, who earn from 1*s.* to 5*s.* a week. A canal in the neighbourhood has lately occasioned a great demand for men, who earn 2*s.* a day and 3 pints of beer. There are several considerable breweries in Newark. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 5*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb.; veal, 4½*d.*; bacon, 8*d.*; butter, 7*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; flour, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.* per st.; very little oatmeal is used here; potatoes, 7*d.* per peck; milk, 2*d.* the quart; barley, 40*s.* and 42*s.* the quarter; malt, 54*s.* to 56*s.* There are 49 ale-houses, and 10 friendly societies with about 800 members altogether. The rules of the society, held at the White Hart, which are very similar to those of other societies, provide for an annual feast, with a sermon, to be held on New Year's Day. The membership is limited to 81 persons, who must on admission be over 18 and below 30, and free from the King's evil, falling sickness, lameness, venereal disease, or any other distemper whatever, that may render him incapable of getting his living. After a year's payments a member falling sick or lame, unless due to quarrelling or venereal disease, receives 6*s.* weekly, but if he receive charity, whether weekly or otherwise, and at the same time declare on the box, he shall be expelled. If any member while on the box drink in any public house more than 2*d.* at any one time to refresh himself, he shall be excluded. On the death of a member, the widow is entitled to £6, and the officials are to attend his funeral. Whereas eight of the societies in the town of Newark have at their joint expense purchased a corn windmill for the mutual

benefit of themselves and families, and appointed Mr. George Stevenson as their agent to the same; and whereas it may be useful to the members of the said societies to have flour on credit from the agent; it is therefore agreed that any debt which may be contracted for flour by any member of this society with the said George Stevenson, or any future servant or agent to the said societies, shall be deducted from such monies as he or they may be entitled to receive from the societies as their share of money to be divided. Members with incurable sickness or lameness are allowed *2s. 6d.* a week for life. These rules were confirmed at quarter sessions in November, 1794 Rent of land near Newark is from *15s.* to £6 an acre, average £2 *2s.* Tithes generally taken in kind. The Poor are maintained partly in a Workhouse and partly at their own homes. The inmates of the Workhouse number 54, of whom 20 are under 15 years of age (including 3 bastards); 10 of the children work at the cotton mill lately erected here; the other paupers are employed in such work as suits them, in different parts of the town. Grown people are allowed *2d.* in the shilling from their earnings. Children have no perquisites, but are now and then paid a halfpenny. The whole earnings from the Poor in the house amount to £90 a year. 42 regular pensioners (including 12 bastards) receive £3 *2s.* a week. Several house rents are likewise paid; and a large sum is expended by the parish every week in discretionary payments, the amount of which would not be ascertained. The badge appointed by the Act of King William is worn by paupers in this parish. It was laid aside a few years ago, but the Poor having increased very much, it was resumed in 1794, and in consequence several persons who had before made regular applications to the parish have now declined asking for relief. The Workhouse here is one of the very best in England. It is sufficiently capacious and well aired The men are lodged on one side, and

the women on the other; 2, 3, 4 or 5 beds (some of chaff but mostly of feathers) are in each room The house is well supplied with vegetables from a good garden, and in all other respects both within and without, it exhibits a degree of comfort and cleanliness that is seldom met with. A few apartments, rather neater than the rest, are appointed for the reception of such persons as have been reduced in circumstances, and their situation receives every attention that humanity can dictate. Bill of fare in the Workhouse: Breakfast —every day, milk pottage. Dinner—Sunday, bread pudding, beef, bread, broth and roots; Monday, bread and pease pottage; Tuesday, and Thursday, boiled meat, broth, roots and bread. Wednesday, frumenty of wheat and milk. ; Friday, suet pudding; Saturday, dumplins with sauce composed of vinegar, sugar, and water. Supper—every day, beer and bread with cheese or butter, one pint of beer and 2oz. of cheese or butter to each adult. Children in proportion. At dinner all have as much bread and meat as they can eat, but are not allowed to take any away. Certificates are allowed here without scruple; about 3 are granted in a year. There are nearly the same number of removals; only one has been contested in 7 years. The donations and charities are mostly under the direction of the corporation. It appears that about £120 a year are distributed among the Poor in money, coals, corn, bread, etc. There are 2 hospitals or alms-houses for 14 decayed tradesmen, and 10 widows. They have coals and clothing, and an allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a week each, according to their age, and their time of residence in the house. About £140 were collected in the winter of 1794-5, from voluntary subscriptions for the relief of the Poor.

NOTTINGHAM contains three parishes. In 1779 the population was 17,711, and is supposed to be now (May, 1795) about 22,000. St. Mary's parish, which is by far the largest, contains by estimation 1,200 acres of

land, and about 100 acres of waste. 1,200 houses pay tax, 1,822 are exempt. Prices of provisions are: Beef, 5*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; mutton and veal, 5*d.*; bacon, 9*d.*; potatoes, 9*d.* and 10*d.* per peck; butter, 9*d.* per lb.; flour, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s* 10*d.* per st.; oatmeal, 6*s.* per bush.; wheat, 9*s.* 4*d.* per bush.; barley, 42*s.* per quarter; malt, 5*s.* per bush.; milk, 1½*d.* per quart. The price of labour is very variable, particularly in the stocking line. Some weavers earn 40*s.* a week, and others only 8*s.* This disparity is occasioned in some through want of industry, but chiefly from the nature of the different branches of the manufacture. It is thought that two-thirds of the weavers do not, on an average, earn more than 10*s.* weekly. Lace workers earn from 20*s.* to 40*s.* weekly. The women and children are chiefly employed in manufacturing cotton and silk, and earn from 10*d.* to 4*s.* weekly. Common labourers have 10*s.* and 10*s.* 6*d.* a week in summer, and in winter 8*s.* Hands cannot easily be procured in winter There are 152 ale-houses, and 51 friendly societies, the number of members in which is limited to 41 or 51. There is a society called the Charitable Society, formed to relieve such cases as cannot be reached by general laws, such as relief of strangers in distress, or persons labouring under temporary disease, or other casual misfortune, either in loans or donations or both, the small annual subscriptions to Sunday schools, and in a few instances to the payment for the education of children of poor and deserving families. The society was founded by Quakers and has been principally under their management, though joined by many others. The subscription is 1*s.* (or 6*d.* at the pleasure of the subscriber) a month. The average rent of land is about £3 an acre. A modus is paid in lieu of tithes. The Workhouse is surrounded by other buildings, mostly much higher, so that the free current of air is completely obstructed. The rooms are close, and the beds partly of flocks, and partly of straw. A few more beds have been ordered,

as in the summer 3 and sometimes 4 persons are obliged to sleep in one bed. This may probably be the reason why vermin prevail here, though the floors, staircases, etc., seem to be kept clean. A spotted fever rages in the house. There are 168 pauper inmates, viz., 42 boys between 6 months and 14 years, 35 girls under 20, 30 men from 20 to 60, and 61 women from 20 to 80. Among the above are 8 bastards, 456 weekly out-pensioners receive £23 2*s.* 6*d.* weekly, and about £11 weekly are paid to casual Poor. The earnings are trifling. Most of the women are employed in nursing the young children, and few men who are able to work enter the house. The earnings, therefore, are chiefly from the children who work at the cotton mills, and amount to rather more than £60 a year.

Bill of fare: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, milk pottage; Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, water gruel; Thursday, bread and gruel. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, broth, beef and potatoes; Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, cold meat, broth and potatoes; Thursday, puddings and sauce made of water, flour, alegar and sugar. Supper—every day except Thursday, bread and beer; Thursday, bread, cheese and beer. The average weekly consumption per head is 4lb. meat 3½ pints beer. About 70 stone of second flour, at 2*s.* 6*d.* the stone, are made into bread weekly. About 11oz brown bread are allowed each grown person for supper, and about ⅔ of a pint of beer. 5 pecks of potatoes, at 9*d.* per peck, are used daily on meat days. About a bush. oatmeal weekly. Children and sick persons are often indulged with puddings and flour hasty puddings. At Thursday's supper about 2¾oz. of cheese are allowed each adult, and a proportionate quantity to children. Certificates are not willingly granted, about 4 or 5 in a year. There are about 14 removals a year, of which one or two are contested. Several small donations amounting to about £80 a year, are distributed annually to such Poor as do not otherwise receive

parochial assistance. The other parishes are burdened with Poor in nearly the same proportion. Some years back it was proposed to erect a House of Industry for all the parishes, but differences of opinion and discordancy of interest caused the scheme to fail. The rates which in 1795 were 4*s.* 4*d.* on houses, and 10*s.* on land, have risen rapidly in recent years. No satisfactory reason could be assigned, as the principal stocking manufacturers say the war has not materially affected them, as their chief export is to America. The rise is generally attributed to the high price of provisions, the scarcity of common labour, and the great number of soldiers and militia men's wives and families who have lately become burdensome to the parish.

OVERINGHAM contains 800 acres and is on the Trent, half way between Nottingham and Newark. There are 240 inhabitants, 24 houses pay tax, 19 exempt. The labouring classes use much tea, milk, butter and bread. Prices are mostly regulated by the neighbouring markets. Milk when new is sold for ½*d.* per pint, ¼*d.* a quart when old. Wages of labourers are in harvest 2*s.* a day and victuals. At other times 1*s.* a day and victuals. Stocking weavers earn about 12*s.* a week. There are two ale houses and one friendly society, with 95 members. Rent of land, 15*s.* to 40*s.* an acre. The parish belongs to one proprietor and is mostly tithe free. The Poor are allowed a maintenance at home; they are 8 in number. Other payments are made occasionally to the most necessitous. About one removal happens in a year, and a contest once in four years. In a neighbouring farming parish, containing about 1,000 acres, the Poor's Rates are 7*d.* in the pound, and there is no Workhouse. In another half-a-mile from Overingham, a donation of £10 a year has prevented any Poor's Rates being collected for the last 50 years, except in the last two years when they were very trifling. This parish contains 800 acres and 13

families. In many parishes between Overingham and Newark, which are all in a farming country, the Poor's Rates are at this time (May, 1795) not more than from 6*d.* to 9*d.* in the pound.

Worksop has a small Workhouse in which there are at present (July, 1795) 18 persons. Very little work is done within, but the Out-Poor, who are in want of work, are supplied with flax for spinning and are paid 1*d.* for every 300 yards of thread spun. A pound of flax is usually spun into 6 leas, each of 300 yards, and a good spinner will spin a pound into 8 leas. With the above pay, few can earn more than 4*d.* a day. The woman who attends the Workhouse is allowed 5 guineas a year, and her bed and board. An inspector has 20 guineas a year. Bill of fare: Breakfast—every day milk porridge. Dinner—Sunday, boiled beef, suet puddings and greens, and a slice of bread; Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, bread, light suet dumplins and treacle sauce; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, meat with the broth, cabbage and bread. Supper—every day, milk porridge and ½ pint of beer to each person. No beer is allowed at dinner. When women wash they are allowed bread and cheese and ½ pint of beer each for supper. There is no garden belonging to the house.

OXFORDSHIRE

Banbury consists almost entirely of houses The small portion of land that is not built upon is laid out in gardens. The inhabitants are tradesmen and manufacturers, principally of worsted and hair-shagg or plush. Number of houses paying tax, 228. Number exempt, supposed to be much the same. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 5*d.* per lb.; bacon, 10*d.*; milk, 1*d.* per pint; bread, 1*s.* 10*d.* the half-peck loaf. Weavers in full business earn from 8*s.* to 30*s.* and some even 40*s.* a week. Common labourers get

8*s.* or 9*s.* a week during the whole year. Women and children in the manufactories earn about 3*s.* a week. There are 42 inns and ale-houses, and 4 friendly societies, of about 100 members each; the rules of 3 have been confirmed. Land tax about 1*s.* 1*d.* in the pound. The Poor are partly maintained in a Workhouse, where there are at present (July, 1795) 39 persons, viz., 6 from 1 to 7 years, 6 from 7 to 8, 11 from 8 to 15, 4 from 15 to 30, and 12 from 30 to 74. Of these one is blind, one insane, and four lame. The Poor in the house are chiefly employed in spinning and twisting for the manufacturers of the town. Their earnings amount to about £40 a year. Table of diet in the house: Breakfast—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, bread and broth; Tuesday, bread and cheese; Thursday, the same with beer. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, meat and vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, cold meat; Thursday, bread, cheese and beer. Supper—every day, bread, cheese and beer. The Poor here in general appear to be in a very miserable state.

Earnings and expenses of a labourer's family: He is a widower, between 50 and 60, with one daughter of 21, another of 13, and a son of 7. He works as a common labourer in carting, digging, etc., generally with the same master. He earns 8*s.* a week for 48 weeks, and in the summer month 9*s.* a week, or £21 a year. The eldest daughter is sickly and cannot earn anything. She takes care of her father's home. The second girl is at a school, where she is provided with clothes, but not food. The boy earns nothing. The parish allows the father 2*s.* a week for his children, or £5 4*s.* a year. Total income, £26 4*s.* Expenses: This family uses 4½ half-peck loaves a week (234 a year), selling at present for 22*d.* each, but taking the average price of 1794, 1*s.* 2*d.*, they cost £13 13*s.* a year. Tea and sugar, £2 10*s.*; butter and lard, £1 10*s.*; beer and milk, £1; bacon and other meat, £1 10*s.*; soap, candles, etc.,

15*s.*; house rent, £3; coals, £2 10*s.*; shoes and shirts, £3; other clothes, etc., £2. Total, £31 8*s.* Deficiency, £5 4*s.* It was found on enquiring that the man was in debt between £3 and £4, and that his neighbours were very kind to him, and supplied him with old clothes, etc. Perhaps, too, as he could only give a certain account of his annual income, and the quantity of bread used in his family, he may have calculated his other expenses too high. He has a garden of 160 square yards, on which he grows about 3 or 4 bushels of potatoes; he only bought 2 galls. more in the previous year.

Earnings and expenses of another Banbury labourer: He is about 50, with a wife and 6 children, viz., girls of 15, 11, 9 and 7, boys of 13 and 4. Earnings: The father, on an average 8*s.* a week throughout the year, =£20 16*s.*; the eldest girl spins and earns 1*s.* 6*d.* a week=£3 18*s.*; the eldest boy goes to plough and earns 3*s.* a week £7 16*s.*; the others earn nothing. Allowance from the parish to maintain the second girl, who is lame, £2 12*s.* Total, £35 2*s.* Expenses 9 half-peck loaves a week at 1*s.* 2*d.*=£27 6*s.*; house rent, £2 12*s.*; fuel, about 1*s.* a week=£2 12*s.* The man could give but little account of his other articles of expenses, but in order to balance his income he must procure clothing for his family as well as every other necessary article of food, for the trifling sum of £2 12*s.* The labourers in this part of the country complain heavily that the farmers, instead of selling their milk to the Poor, give it to their pigs. Of the difficulty of subsisting with their present earnings on a bread diet, the above statements form a convincing proof. The family, which receives about 13*s.* 6*d.* a week in earnings and parochial aid has usually consumed 9 half-peck loaves in a week, which at 1*s.* 10*d.* each, the present price, cost 16*s.*, or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week more than their receipts. They must therefore reduce their consumption of the most necessary, and indeed their only, article

of subsistence. It is much to be lamented that in a country where wages are not high enough to enable the Poor to supply themselves with wheaten bread, strong beer and butcher's meat they have not the means of eking out their scanty portions by culinary contrivances. The extreme dearness of fuel in Oxfordshire compels him to purchase his dinner at the baker's, and from his unavoidable consumption of bread he has little left for clothes in a country where warm clothing is most essentially wanted. Some slight attempts to prevent the removal of corn which have lately been made at Banbury are certainly ascribable to the pinching wants of the people. The arrival of the military prevented more serious consequences taking place. The manufactures of this town are chiefly exported to Russia. Trade has been very dull for some years, but has lately revived. Some considerable orders have been received, and trade is a little brisk again, though still the weavers have not full employment.

DEDDINGTON contains by estimation 4,000 acres. 102 houses pay tax, the number exempt near 300. There are 10 ale-houses, a few years ago 21. Farms are from £15 to £315 a year, chiefly £100. There are 45 acres of common. Tithes are farmed at £750 a year, and taken in kind. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton and veal, 5*d*. per lb.; bacon, 10*d*.; butter, 9*d*. and 10*d*.; milk, 1*d*. the pint; bread, 1*s*. 10*d*. the half-peck loaf. Common labourers earn 7*s*. a week in winter, 8*s*. in spring, and 12*s*. in hay and corn harvest. Women are paid 6*d*. a day for weeding corn, 8*d*. for haymaking, and 1*s*. in corn harvest, without victuals. There are two friendly societies with 120 members each. They pay 8*d*. into the box monthly, allow 6*s*. a week to sick members during the first twelve months, and 3*s*. a week after that period. Both societies have taken the benefit of the late Act. The Poor are farmed in the parish Workhouse for £1,000 a year. The parish,

however, defrays all expenses arising from bastardy, small-pox, broken bones, dislocations and law concerns. The number of inmates in July, 1795, was 18. Out pensioners receive about £7 a week, besides which the roundsmen (or labourers who cannot get employment) are often chargeable and supported by the parish. In winter their number is sometimes 40 or 50; the parish employs them in stone quarries in the neighbourhood. No regular bill of fare is observed in the Workhouse. The Poor were not all farmed till the present year (1795), but were chiefly supported by weekly pensions. In general, however, about 20 persons have been maintained in the Workhouse, under a contractor who was allowed 2*s.* 6*d.* a head for their weekly maintenance. The expenditure on the Poor in 1795 was £1,343 odd. No account of receipts or expenditure before 1786, when the expenditure was £1,126 odd, could be found, but it is said that for some years before, the rates were as high as in that year. An old farmer adds that he had heard his father say that 55 years ago he paid £3 12*s.* Poor's Rates for a farm which now pays £26, and that in 1740, the year after the great frost, 9 galls. of wheat at one time cost 11*s.*, but fell in a few months to 3*s.* In the country between Oxford and Deddington the rates are from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, in several parishes which are almost entirely agricultural. The high rates in this parish (6*s.* in 1794, and 6*s.* 6*d.* in 1795, on nearly the full rental) are ascribed to the common field, of which the land principally consists, whereas the neighbouring parishes have been inclosed many years, and many small farms in them have been consolidated, so that many small farmers with little capital have been obliged either to turn labourers or procure small farms in Deddington or other parishes that possess common field. Besides this, the neighbouring parishes are, many of them, possessed by a few individuals, who are cautious in permitting new-comers to obtain a settlement. The

general opinion here is that canals are a great injury to the Poor, by enabling farmers to send their corn abroad. Such erroneous ideas do not merit a refutation, but the farmers are very apprehensive that they will produce serious consequences. A boat laden with flour was lately seized by the populace, but was restored on the miller's promising to sell it at a reduced price. According to the present price of bread, a family here which consists of a man, wife and three children (the eldest 4 years old), will expend in bread alone £16 18*s*. in a year. The whole earnings of the man, provided he continues in health and can obtain constant work, will not exceed £22 15*s*., and as his wife and children can earn nothing, there will only remain £5 17*s*. to provide him and them with lodging, fuel, clothes. and every other necessary of life, and his deficiencies must be made up by the parish.

Oxford.—The eleven parishes of this city were incorporated in 1771 for the maintenance of the Poor, who are principally relieved in a general Workhouse, built on the site of the palace of Henry 1st. The average number of inmates for the last seven years has been 160 in summer and 200 in winter. The number in July, 1795, was 167, chiefly children, women and old men. Their earnings are about £300 a year, from a sacking factory and sweeping the streets, for which the guardians are paid £100 a year. The Workhouse is under the superintendence of acting guardians, who are chosen annually. This system appears to be very bad. Many persons who are chosen are too much engaged with their private concerns to attend to the affairs of the house, while others who enter their office with a zealous desire to promote the interest of the parishes by a regular attendance at the Workhouse have scarcely acquired the necessary knowledge, when their term of office expires, and they are succeeded by guardians who overturn the system of their predecessors. Thus alterations are constantly made in the

table of diet, etc. The immediate management of the Poor in the house is confided to old people, who appear to be by no means competent to the task. Several persons have remarked that children who have been educated in the Workhouse seldom turn out well. The house is built on a good plan, in an airy situation, but is exceedingly dirty. The following is the usual weekly fare, but no regular table of diet is observed: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage and bread or broth. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, butcher's meat and roots or vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, bread and cheese; Friday, suet pudding; Saturday, bread and cheese or pease soup. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, potatoes with lard; Monday, Wednesday, broth or milk pottage; Friday, Saturday, bread and cheese. At meat dinners men receive 6oz. of meat, women 5oz., boys 4oz., without bone, and the same quantity of bread. The following extracts are taken from the last year's statement of accounts by the guardians:—"The guardians having now made up their year's accompts, think it incumbent on them at the same time they submit them to the inspection of their respective parishes, to subjoin the following statement of facts, as well for the satisfaction of the public at large, as for the particular information of those gentlemen who may succeed them in office. And in the first place they must observe that it was no small mortification to them on taking a minute survey of the house, to find it in many respects the very reverse of what they conceived a House of Industry ought to be. The boundary walls were insufficient to confine the paupers; the garden yard and offices lay open, and in common with each other; the windows and doors of the house without proper bars or fastenings; no regular wards appropriated to the sick, aged or infirm; nor nurseries for the children; the sexes strangely intermixed in their eating and sitting rooms, and also in their shops and exercise grounds; nor any separation

between their wards and sleeping rooms. They found too a considerable manufacture carried on without a superintendent.; the sweeping of the streets without plan or system ; the master's and matron's apartments situated in one corner of one of the wings of the building, at a distance from, and out of the sight and hearing of every part of the house, where their attention was more particularly demanded. The house in general dirty, unsweet, and in a miserable state of repair without a single rule or order established for the regulation and government of its numerous family, who were in general idle, riotous and disorderly. They therefore found it necessary to appoint a committee to take these matters into consideration, and on whose report and under whose direction a set of general rules and orders have been established for the better government of the house. The master's and matron's apartments have been brought into the centre of the building, in view of the entrances in front, and at the same time commanding the yard and offices backward. The sexes have been separated, as far as the circumstances of the house and the nature of their employment will at present admit of ; a set of wards have been appropriated for the sick, infirm and aged ; and a nursery and nurses provided for the children. A regular plan has been laid down for the sweepers, and an active and intelligent superintendent of the manufactory appointed, at a very small additional expense ; and the whole of the house has been whitewashed, painted and thoroughly repaired. An interior wall has just now been finished which will be an additional security to the house, and at the same time detach the paupers from the garden, bridewell, stable, pest house and other out-offices ; the want of which had occasioned much injury to the property of the house. These alterations, improvements and repairs have been necessarily attended with a considerable expense ; but which will be amply repaid by the increased regularity,

decency and good order of the paupers, as well as by the additional security and support of the house; and it is with much pleasure the guardians already observe a very material alteration for the better in these particulars. The other expenses they have reason to complain of have arisen from the heavy payments made to families of the militia, and the stated weekly payments to the Out-Poor. The former of these the circumstances of the nation render unavoidable. The latter, which had arisen to the immoderate sum of between £6 and £7 per week, and which the guardians found themselves unable to reduce, or regulate to their satisfaction, has been necessarily discontinued altogether, unless in cases of occasional distress, which is strictly conformable to their Act of Parliament. A very considerable expense has been incurred by a loss or waste in the articles of bread and beer; but which has been discovered, and for the present put a stop to; but no satisfactory account has yet been given to the guardians as to the persons to whom this loss or waste should be imputed, or by what means either the bread or the beer was so destroyed. An attempt likewise has been made to promote and encourage virtue and industry among the paupers, and to discourage idleness and every species of vice, by holding out rewards to the one and making the others objects of shame and correction. In short, the guardians may with truth assert that they have laboured with zeal and assiduity to make the house what a House of Industry ought to be—a comfortable asylum for the aged and infirm, a place of useful employment for those who are able to work, and a House of Correction for the idle and profligate."

In Oxford 1,200 houses pay tax, number exempt about 600. The number of ale-houses is 200, and of friendly societies 7, with a membership of 101 each on an average. All have had their rules confirmed by the magistrates. Land tax varies from 5*s*. to 6*s*.

in the pound. Prices of provisions: Beef, 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.*; veal, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; bacon, 9*d.* to 10*d.*; bread, 1*s.* 8*d.* the half-peck loaf; butter, 10½*d.* per lb.; milk, 1*d.* per pint; eggs, 6 for 4*d.* Common labourers are paid from 15*d.* to 18*d.* the day, in winter; in hay harvest, from 18*d.* to 20*d.* the day; in corn harvest, 10*s.* the week; women corn-weeders, 8*d.* the day, without victuals. In St. Clement's, which is not an incorporated parish, the Poor are generally maintained by an allowance at home. Last year (1794) they were sent into the General Workhouse, for which the parish paid 2*s.* 6*d.* a head per week. The old method was adopted in 1795. Land tax about 2*s.* 5*d.* in the pound Six ale-houses

RUTLAND

EMPINGHAM.—The lordship of this name is 4 miles in length, but the town is 7 furlongs It contains 122 houses, and 705 inhabitants, viz., 208 males and 217 females above 14, and 147 males and 133 females under that age. There are 2 ale-houses and one friendly society with 90 members, whose rules have been confirmed. The rules are similar to those of other societies, but on June 3, 1794, two rules were passed requiring every new member to declare his allegiance to the King, and duty to the laws of his country, and excluding all persons "whose sentiments shall be found and proved unfriendly to the present constitution of this country." At the same time, £1 13*s.* 1½*d.* was collected among the members who are in general poor, for the service of the Duke of York's army on the Continent. There are about 4,000 acres in the lordship, of which 700 are old, and 3,300 new enclosure. There are 18 large farms, and the remainder of the land is let in small quantities to cottagers, who are thus enabled to keep a cow or fatten a pig. The average rent is 12*s.* an acre. There is a cow pasture but no waste

land. Prices of provisions: Best beef and mutton, 5*d*. to 5½*d*. per lb.; coarse ditto, 4*d*. to 4½*d*.; veal, 5*d*.; wheat, fluctuating from £4 10*s*. to £5 the quarter; barley, from £2 to £2 4*s*. In the harvest of 1794 wheat was reaped and sheafed at 6*s*. and 7*s*. an acre; barley and oats mown at 2*s*. and 2*s*. 6*d*.; and grass at 1*s*. 6*d*. and 2*s*. 6*d*. an acre. Labourers found their own meat and drink. The price of daily labour in harvest is in general very indeterminate. At other seasons 14*d*. and 16*d*. a day has been usually paid for common labour, but at present rather more on account of the high price of provisions. Labourers in threshing are paid for wheat 2*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*. a quarter, barley 2*s*., and oats 1*s*. and 1*s*. 6*d*. The Poor-house at Empingham is called the House of Protection, both to obviate prejudice against the name of Poor or Workhouse, and because it is a protection to the aged sick and infirm. It was built on an extensive plan by Sir Gilbert Heathcote, and furnished by the parishioners. The parish supplies two suits of clothes and changes of linen to each pauper on entering the house; and the master is bound to keep them and (if any leave the house) to send them out equally well apparelled. Boys are occasionally let out to farmers; when put out apprentices, the fee is paid by the parish. No inmate has died as yet. The house is under the regulation of a committee who visit weekly in turns, and to whom the master or the Poor are to appeal for redress, when requisite. It will be seen by the table of diet that the Poor have good eating: Breakfast—every day, men, milk or broth; women, tea and bread and butter. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, beef or mutton with vegetables; Monday, broth and cold meat, stewed with plenty of vegetables; Wednesday and Friday, the same without broth; Saturday, apple pudding or oatmeal and milk—that is, milk boiled and thickened with oatmeal. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, milk or broth; Monday, milk; Wednesday, broth; Saturday, milk

or water gruel. The expenses of a labourer's family are in general equal to the earnings. Bread, made of wheaten and barley flour mixed, is the principal food. During the summer of 1795 beef and mutton were sold at a reduced price throughout the county to prevent too great consumption of bread. The meat was generally made into broth, of which the Poor are becoming more fond than they formerly were; they begin to use vegetables very generally, and it is thought that their prejudices in favour of any particular diet are wearing away very fast. Five labourers in Empingham have received premiums from the Society of Industry for bringing up four children or more (the youngest of which was 14 years of age) without having solicited relief from their parish. This society was formed at the general quarter sessions for the county, held on July 14, 1785, when the justices, having taken into consideration the increase of the Poor Rates, the want of regard to the employments of the Poor in general, and of the infant Poor in particular, resolved that the overseers of the Poor of each parish in the county do immediately provide such raw materials as wool, woollen yarn, hemp and flax, as also wheels and other implements for the employment of the Poor of every denomination as shall be necessary to enable them to do such work as they are capable of performing either by spinning, knitting, or any other employment which the overseer may direct, and that the overseer do make complaint before a justice of the peace of all who refuse to work, or who wilfully spoil the raw materials given them; and that no person be allowed any relief till they have done such work as they are capable of. After the following 1st January no person is to be allowed relief on account of any child above 6 years who cannot knit, or any above 9 who cannot spin either linen or woollen; and that the overseers are to meet at least once a month after Divine service on Sunday to consider the best course, and order to

be taken and made in the employment of the Poor. That the magistrates might have the advice and assistance of the county at large in endeavouring to check the progress of the evils above-mentioned, a meeting of the owners and occupiers of land in Rutland was held at Oakham in September, 1785, at which the following proposals were adopted: (1) That every parish pay to a common fund a sum equivalent to one per cent. of the Poor Rate of the previous year; (2) that individuals be invited to subscribe sums of five shillings each annually, and larger sums as benefactions; (3) that premiums be given to children who do the most work of different kinds, and of the best quality; (4) that premiums be given to apprentices or young persons going into service, or getting married under certain conditions; (5) that premiums be given to day labourers who bring up four or more children born in wedlock to the age of 14, without relief from the parish; and (6) that parish officers be recommended to give spinning wheels to persons who wish to employ themselves, although they should not be chargeable to the parish, and that teachers in the Workhouses should allow them free admission into the spinning-room and teach them (gratis), and that the profits arising from the work of such children be for the benefit of their parents. At a general meeting of the county on Nov. 14, 1785, a committee was appointed, consisting of 23 persons, who undertook the management of the business for one year. The Committee at their next meeting on the 10th December, having ascertained the number of subscribing parishes to be 46, divided them into five classes, having regard to neighbourhood and the amount of the parish rates, and each member of the Committee undertook to superintend one or more parishes. On the 7th February it appeared that £208 19*s.* 4½*d.* had been collected—£112 4*s.* 3*d.* by benefactions, £67 17*s.* 3*d.* by annual subscriptions, and £28 17*s.* 10½*d.* by parish subscrip-

tions of 1% of the Poor's Rates. It was resolved that £22 19*s.* should be allowed for that year to each of the five classes, to purchase clothing for those children who should be found to be the most industrious. The following table shows the number of candidates each year and of the premiums awarded :

Year.	Spinners of Jersey.	Spinners of Linen.	Knitters.	Expenditure.
1786	211	3	22	£108 9 0
1787	302	9	37	104 6 0
1788	257	15	60	104 6 0
1789	203	8	29	83 5 0
1790	232	15	40	83 5 0
1791	263	19	57	86 5 0
1792	279	15	69	88 10 0
1793	261	21	89	92 5 0

It appears that the rates for the whole county were somewhat reduced in the year 1793 from what they were in 1785. I think that 8 years are not a period sufficiently long to enable the public to decide whether the benefits hitherto received and hereafter to be expected from the Society of Industry are necessarily interwoven with its principles, or are chiefly ascribable to the laudable zeal and enthusiasm of the gentlemen who first planned and now support the institution. The Poor's Rates in the county are said to be highest in the unenclosed parishes.

North Luffenham contains, according to an old survey, 1,322 acres of open field, and near 200 acres of old enclosure. There are 70 houses, inhabited by 310 persons, i.e., 149 males, 161 females. 23 houses pay tax, 47 exempt. Meat on an average is about 5*d.* per lb., wheat £4 10*s.* the quarter, barley £2. All other articles of provisions are at high prices Labourers in winter are chiefly employed in threshing grain by the quarter, by which they earn 8*s.* or 9*s* a week. There are only 2 ale-houses A friendly society has lately been established. Most of the paupers in the parish are maintained in a House of Industry, under the inspection of a person who is paid by the parish The

overseers send in provisions as they are wanted, but the inhabitants find the expenses run so high that they intend to adopt the system of farming the Poor as soon as they can meet with a proper contractor. No particular rules are observed respecting their diet. The rates in 1770 were at 8*d.* in the pound; in 1794, 1*s.* 11*d.*

SHROPSHIRE

Bishop's Castle is divided into two parts, viz., the borough which contains 1,100 inhabitants, and the hamlet which contains 250. In the former 128 houses pay tax, 30 or 40 exempt. In the latter 28 pay tax, near 15 exempt. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 4*d.* to 4½*d.* per lb.; pork, 5*d.*; bacon, 9*d.* and 10*d.*; butter, 10*d.*; potatoes, 2*s.* 6*d.* for 10 gallons; wheat, 13*s.* for the same; barley, 5*s.*; oats, 3*s.* 6*d.*; milk, 1½*d* the quart; coals, 25*s.* the ton. Labourers can earn 7*s.* a week in winter, and 8*s.* to 9*s.* in summer, without board. About 1787 there were 29 ale-houses; in 1795, 16. The magistrates keep down the number as much as they can. There are three friendly societies, with a membership of 100, 70 and 50 respectively. All have had their rules confirmed. Rent of land varies from 12*s.* to £4 an acre, average about 26*s.* Farms principally of £100 a year. Tithes chiefly taken in kind. Land tax at 1*s.* in the pound on net rental in the borough, and 11*d.* in the hamlet. About 50 acres of common. The Poor have generally been, and are now, farmed in a Workhouse. The contractor has £105 a year to feed and clothe them and defray all other expenses, except appeals. Owing to the high prices of provisions the parish gave him £5 last half-year. 14 paupers, chiefly old, infirm and insane, are in the house. Those who can work are employed in spinning lint or other common work, according to their age and abilities. The contractor

has 11 or 12 out-pensioners, who receive 6*d.* to 1*s.* a week, and a bastard at 1*s.* 6*d.* He also pays several house rents. His rule is not to allow more than 1*s.* a week to each family of out-pensioners, and if that sum does not satisfy them he requires them to come into the house. It is not supposed that he can support them at a cheaper rate in the house, but a reluctance to enter it often induces a poor family to acquiesce in a very small out allowance. It is believed that if the Poor were not farmed the rates would be much higher than they are.

Table of diet in the Workhouse: Breakfast—every day, broth, or milk and water gruel. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, hot meat and vegetables; other days, cold meat and vegetables. Supper—every day, same as at breakfast. No bread is allowed at dinner. Sometimes potatoes and milk are served for supper. The matron always gives each person a little bread and cheese after breakfast. The house is kept pretty clean: of 10 beds 6 are stuffed with feathers and 4 with chaff. Both beds and bedclothes are very old. A committee of 12 gentlemen visit the Workhouse very regularly The rates have varied from 1*s.* in the pound on the full rental to 1*s.* 4½*d.* since 1691 (in 1795, 1*s.* 2*d.*). The Poor in the hamlet are relieved at their own houses. 20 regular pensioners receive 31*s.* a week. Some have casual relief, and several have their rents paid by the hamlet. The rates were, in 1795, 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound.

Ellesmere.—The Poor of this parish, and of 4 others lately incorporated by an Act of Parliament, are chiefly maintained in a House of Industry opened in January, 1795. The distribution of the rooms, the bye-laws relative to the external concerns, and the regulations for the internal government of the house are very similar to those adopted at Shrewsbury. The number of inmates is 198, viz., 50 women, 34 men, and the rest children. Every article of wearing apparel is manufactured in the house; flannels also are made

for sale, and a hop-bag manufacture has lately been set on foot. The house stands in an open healthy situation, on the banks of an extensive piece of water near the town. The dormitories are extremely clean and neat, and every appearance indoors evinces the unremitting assiduity of the governor to the duties of his situation. An instance of feeling attention to misfortune, which is not often to be met with in Houses of Industry, is shown in the provision of special apartments for persons who have borne a fair character, and have been undeservedly reduced from each circumstances and obliged to seek parish relief. All the family, however, dine together. Notwithstanding the promised advantages, it is said that the incorporated parishes are in general now heartily sorry they ever engaged in the erection of a House of Industry. The average annual disbursements of the five incorporated parishes for 12 years before 1790 were £1,421 13*s.* 3*d.* The expenses on account of the house from July 26, 1791, to September 29, 1795, were £11,100 9*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenses for the Poor in 1795 will it is expected amount to £3,500. The assessments are 4*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on one-third of the rack rent. The corporation do not allow out-pay to any person under 70, and to persons above that age only 1*s.* a week. At present 30 families receive £1 10*s.* on this account. Children at nurse cost £3 a week, militia men's families about 18*s.* a week A farm of 45 acres, with four cows, is attached to the house. Prices of provisions: Beef, 3½*d* to 4*d* per lb ; mutton and veal, 4*d.* to 5*d.* ; pork, 5*d.* ; butter, 1*s.* ; potatoes, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* for 38 quarts or 90lbs. ; wheat, 12*s.* to 14*s.* ditto ; barley, 6*s.* 5*d.* ; oats, 3*s.* to 4*s.* ; milk, 1*d.* a quart, very little sold. Common labourers receive 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* the day in winter, and 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in summer, without victuals except a small allowance of beer. Harvest men are paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a day with diet. Day wages are supposed to have risen 2*d.* or 3*d.* in 1795. Malting and

tanning are carried on here, but wages in these industries are low, and do not exceed 7*s.* or 8*s.* without board Average rent of land, £1 10*s.* an acre. Tithes partly taken in kind, and partly compounded for. Small farms are going very fast out of use; as they drop in they are let to the large farmers, a practice much complained of, and one to which the dearness of provisions is ascribed, apparently erroneously.

The yearly earnings and expenses of a labourer's family: The man is 42 (his wife 40, two daughters are aged 13 and 11) and works in a malt-house and in hedging, ditching, threshing, etc. His wages vary with his employment, and he supposes from loss of time, bad weather, want of work, he does not earn more than 6*s.* a week on an average, or yearly £15 8*s.* His wife was formerly a laundry maid, and makes by washing 3*s.* a week—a sum that not one woman in 20 here ever earns—yearly, £7 16*s.* Total, £23 4*s.* Expenses: Bread, made of wheat and rye, at the present price costs 4*s.* a week, or yearly £10 8*s.*; 1lb. butter at 1*s.* a week (no cheese is used), yearly £2 12*s.*; potatoes, 5*d.* a week, £1 1*s.* 8*d.*; milk, 2*d.* a week, 8*s.* 8*d.*; small beer, ditto, 8*s.* 8*d.*; tea and sugar, 7*d.* a week, £1 10*s.* 4*d.*; candles and soap, estimated at 8*d.* a week, £1 14*s.* 8*d.*; shoes, £1 10*s.*; shirts and shifts, £1; other clothes, £1 5*s.*=£3 15*s.*; children's education, 10*s.*; house rent, £4 4*s.*; fuel, £3 3*s.* Total, £29 16*s.* This statement, like most others procured, shows a considerable deficiency. It should, however, be remarked that every article has been charged at the present price, and that the man sometimes works for an employer who allows him his board. It is due to this that the weekly consumption of bread has been estimated at 4*s.*

SHREWSBURY.—The Poor in the six united parishes are maintained in a House of Industry opened in 1784, and under the management of a board of directors, appointed according to the provisions of an Act of Parliament (24 Geo. 3. Sess. 2. Cap. 15). The important

points to be regarded in such an institution, viz., the granting occasional relief to those whom it is unnecessary to admit into the house, the withholding it from those who on careful investigation may be found not to want it, the providing suitable employment for those who are either averse to labour or unable to procure it, the educating the infant Poor in habits of industry and virtue, are carefully provided for in the by-laws of this institution, which provide *inter alia* for a weekly court of the directors at which the parish officer is to report on the situations, circumstances and characters of persons applying for relief, and on all persons likely to become chargeable, especially of single women in a state of pregnancy, and that no weekly pay is to be allowed to the Out-Poor, except children at nurse, or in cases of lunacy, sickness, or where their admission to the house shall be judged improper by the weekly court where families are too large to maintain themselves by their own labour, the mode of relief shall be by taking one or more of the children into the house, but no pauper is to be admitted into the house without an order by the weekly court, or, in cases of emergency, by a written order signed by three directors. No clothing is to be allowed to the Out-Poor except in case of sickness, when the weekly court, or if immediately necessary the clothing committee, may exercise a discretionary power.

The bill of fare is to be as follows: Breakfast—Sunday, Thursday, broth; other days, milk porridge. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, butcher's meat and garden stuff; Monday, hasty pudding with butter and treacle sauce; Tuesday, Saturday, stewed meat with potatoes or other garden stuff; Wednesday, bread and cheese; Friday, yeast dumplins. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, broth; Monday, Friday, mashed potatoes; Tuesday, pease soup. The amount allowed to be weighed by the steward. It was further ordered that the larder, kitchen and other offices,

together with the utensils and furniture thereof be kept sweet, clean and decent, that the dining-hall tables and seats be cleaned immediately after each meal, as well as the dormitories, either before or after breakfast, when the windows are to be thrown open, and the doors locked. To avoid infectious distempers, every new inmate is to be carefully examined, washed, and if necessary clothed. Clean sheets are to be provided for the beds once a month, or oftener if necessary, and the inmates with clean linen once a week. The inmates, except those disabled by age or other infirmities, are to take their meals together, and to work in the summer months from 6 in the morning to 6 at night (in winter from 7 to an hour to be fixed by the directors), with a break of half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner; but no work is to be required on Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas Day and the two following days, Monday and Tuesday in Easter and Whitsun weeks, on Shrewsbury Show day and on Saturday afternoons after 3 o'clock. Payment of one-sixth part of their week's work is made to all except in cases of misconduct, and punishments are given to all who profanely curse or swear, who appear to be in liquor, who are refractory or disobedient to the reasonable orders of the steward or matrons, who pretend sickness, make excuse to avoid working, destroy or spoil material or implements, or are guilty of lewd, immoral or disorderly behaviour.

The children are to be taught reading and other useful branches, and are to have their hands and faces washed and their hair combed every morning. The paupers in the house are chiefly employed in the woollen manufactory, in which they are instructed by proper persons versed in scribbling, cording, and spinning. Several weavers are constantly employed. Those who have been shoemakers, tailors, carpenters, etc., are set to work at their different occupations. The decent and orderly are in a great measure separated from the

profligate and debauched, who are kept in distinct working rooms and dormitories. The treasurer, Mr. Wood, recommended that prostitutes and other abandoned females should be lodged in a detached building, but it is not known if this proposal has been adopted. Adjoining the house are two ranges of buildings, one of which contains apartments to which the Poor are sent on their admission to be stripped and washed, and infectious cases are dealt with till cured. One room is appropriated to fever. The other building is the infirmary, in which the sick and infirm are lodged in separate wards, according to their sex, under the care of proper nurses. Surgical cases are sent to the county infirmary, to which the directors subscribe. There is a grazing farm of 50 acres, with 20 cows, belonging to the house. The butter, except what little is used by the sick, is sold and produces about £70 a year; but the expenses of the farm are about equal to the receipts. There is an open contract for flour used in the house once a quarter, and a baker and a brewer are constantly employed. Prior to the opening of the house, the expenses of maintaining the Poor were £4,605 3*s.* 1½*d.* for one year. The Poor's Rates were immediately reduced to £2,992 12*s.*, at which sum they have continued. This sum, together with other receipts arising from the profit of the farm, compositions for bastardy and sale of manufactured goods, has been sufficient to defray all the expenses of the house. The Poor's Rate is now 2*s.* in the pound on the rack-rent. It is expected that a rise will soon be necessary. The number of paupers in the house is 389. As the directors do not grant out-pensions, the number of young and stout is, as might be expected, very considerable. This explains the greatness of the earnings. The expense of maintaining the Poor in the house in meat and drink alone is estimated at 22*d.* or 23*d.* a week for each person. The cost of clothing is as follows: A man's suit, viz., coat, waistcoat, leather

breeches, shoes, 2 shirts, 2 pair stockings, £1 16*s.*; a boy's ditto, 18*s.*; a woman's dress, viz., a bedgown, 2 petticoats, linsey apron, shoes, 2 shifts, 2 pair stockings, and a handkerchief, £1 7*s.*; a girl's ditto, 18*s.* The men's and boys' coats and waistcoats are made of woollen cloth, manufactured in the house, and is estimated to cost 1*s.* 6*d.* a yard. The women's clothes are manufactured in the house, and cost 1*s.* 6*d.* a yard, except the flannel petticoats, which cost about 10*d.* a yard. The number admitted between January, 1784, and October, 1787, was: Born, 60; under 2 years, 52; from 2 to 15, 356; from 15 to 30, 116; from 30 to 50, 68; from 50 to 70, 226; from 70 to 90, 69; from 90 to 100, 4. Discharged: Under 2, sent out to nurse, 42; bound apprentices, 61; sent to service, in their respective parishes, 78; discharged to get their own living and at their own request, 315. Died: Under 2, 22; 2 to 15, 16; 15 to 30, 15; 30 to 50, 18; 50 to 70, 27; 70 to 90, 35; 90 to 100, 4.

In 1788 considerable subscriptions were raised for the Poor, by which 920 families and 328 single persons were relieved. In 1794, 1,036 families and 217 persons were also relieved. Three liberal subscriptions were opened in 1795 for the Poor, who had suffered by an extraordinary inundation of the river, by which 1,603 persons had three several times been supplied with coal and bread gratis to the amount of £121 1*s.*, while £698 worth of bread had been sold at less than half market price. Since then the high price of provisions has produced another very liberal contribution to the relief of the Poor, by which 5,503 persons were relieved. Corn and meat were sold at reduced prices, premiums were given for bringing potatoes to market, whereby the supply was increased and the price reduced, and by adopting precautions, that loss of time, tumults and other inconveniences formerly experienced in these general sales were prevented. There are 116 inns and ale-houses in the 6 united parishes, and 14 friendly

societies for men, and 8 for women, with a membership from 70 to 150 each. All except one have had their rules confirmed. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 4*d.* to 4½*d.*; veal, 5*d.*; pork, 5½*d.* per lb.; bacon, 8*d.* to 9*d.*; butter, 11*d.* to 1*s.*; new milk, ½*d.* per pint; skim milk, ½*d.* per quart; potatoes, 2*s.* the bushel, about 90lbs.; wheat, 12*s.* the bushel; barley, 6*s.*; oats, 3*s.* 8*d.*; coal, 13*s.* the ton. Wages of labourers, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* a day in winter and 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in summer without diet. In harvest they receive 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and board, sometimes 1*s.* 8*d.* a day and board. Rent of land near the town, £2 to £4 an acre; 8 or 10 miles distance, £1 to £2. Average, about £1 5*s.* or £1 8*s.* in large farms. Tithes compounded for at 5*s.* an acre for meadow, 3*s.* in the pound for grazing ground. The woollen manufacture here is rather on the decline.

15 parishes near Montgomery have lately been incorporated in order to erect a House of Industry. It was opened in March, 1795, and contains 500 inmates. The regulations are very similar to those at Shrewsbury, but many persons think it will not succeed, as it is a great distance from any market. Another house on a less extensive plan has lately been opened about 5 miles from Shrewsbury

SOMERSET

FROME is estimated at 6 miles by 3½. In 1785 it was found to contain 1,684 houses, and 8,105 persons. It was supposed to have increased before the war, but 800 men have entered the service. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 5*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb.; veal, 6*d.*; bacon, 9*d.* to 10*d.*; butter, 11*d.*; bread, 13*d.* the gallon or quartern loaf; potatoes, 7*d.* per peck; coals, 1*s.* the cwt.; cheese, 5*d.* to 7½*d.* per lb. Sheermen earn 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week, scribblers about 12*s.*,

weavers 20*s*. Women and children are employed in the manufactories, either in picking wool, or burling and dressing cloth, and attending the machines, etc. Women have 8*d*. a day at present; children, 7 to 8 years old, 2*s*. 6*d*. a week for attending the machines. Common labourers earn 16*d*. to 18*d*. a day, but when work is done by the piece, which is usually the case here, they can earn 2*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d* a day The following cloths are manufactured here: Superfine, of Spanish wool, super and best super of English wool, and kerseymeres. The war has taken off a number of hands, but has not lessened the demand for cloths, except kerseymeres, which were chiefly sent to France. Last year there was a great demand for broad cloths. The great increase in the Poor's Rate here has been ascribed by some to the introduction of machines, by others to the number of soldiers' and militia men's families, who are chargeable. The town is very ancient, and has been the seat of the woollen manufacture for several centuries; yet the external appearance of the town does not indicate that wealth which is usually attendant on commerce. The houses are very different from the elegant dwellings that are to be found in the Yorkshire manufacturing towns or their neighbourhood. The streets are narrow, unpaved and dirty. There are 36 ale-houses, which it is estimated dispose of 6,700 hogsheads of strong beer annually. Grass land near the town lets for £3 an acre, at a distance 20*s*. to 40*s*. Arable farms, 14*s*. to 18*s*. an acre. Tithes taken by composition.

The Poor are chiefly maintained at home, where it is thought they can be relieved at less expense to the parish than if they were sent to the Workhouse. However, 120 persons, mostly old people and children, are in the house. The food used there is chiefly bread, cheese and beer, except on Mondays and Thursdays, when beef, veal or pork and vegetables are allowed for dinners. Breakfast is generally a composition of milk,

onions and broth. About £75 a week are paid to militia men's families and other Out-Poor, amounting altogether to about 800 families.

Annual earnings and expenses of a cooper's family, consisting of father and mother (both about 50), a daughter 18, son 16, son 13, daughter 11, son 7. Earnings: The father earns as cooper about 2*s.* a day, £31 4*s.* The wife nothing. The eldest girl dresses cloth and earns 8*d.* a day, £10 4*s.* The oldest boy is a cooper, earning about 9*d.* a day, £11 14*s.* The two youngest children work a little in the manufactory and earn about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, £3 18*s.* The father employs a journeyman by whom he gains about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. The journeyman does not board with him, £6 14*s.* Total earnings, £63 14*s.* The boy of 13 earns nothing, being chiefly employed in fetching and carrying tubs to and from customers. Expenses: The family spend 2*s.* 6*d.* a day in bread only, which at present prices amount to £45 10*s.*; butter, 2lbs. a week, at 11*d.* per lb.; cheese, about 2*s.* a week=£9 19*s.* 4*d.*; butcher's meat, about 3*s.* a week; tea, 6*d.* a week; sugar, 1½lbs. at 10*d.* a week=£12 7*s.*; 8 bushels malt at 7*s.*; hops, 6*s.*=£3 2*s.*; potatoes, 1½ peck a week, at 7*d.*; milk, about 4*d.* a week=£3 1*s.* 4*d.*; house rent, £7 7*s.*; coals, £2 4*s.*; he burns a great quantity of chips of wood which cost him nothing=£2 4*s.*; soap and candles, £2 12*s.*; clothing for the family estimated at £14. Total, £100 2*s.* 8*d.* It is evident this man must have been much mistaken in his calculations, as he says his expenses have hitherto not exceeded his income. He says he is pretty accurate in the article of bread, and rather below than above the mark. With regard to other particulars, he does not pretend to speak with certainty, but his account proves there is great want of economy in the family. Each person consumes about 1½lbs. bread a day. The man lays by nothing, but as he is not in debt, it is probable his earnings are under-rated.

The sum of £237 2*s.* 6*d.* was subscribed during the late severe season for the relief of the Poor, to enable them to buy bread at a reduced price. The rates are levied at £27 7*s.* 8½*d.* each. In 1793 72 rates were levied, in 1794 96, in 1795 114; for the current year (Oct., 1795) 120 have been granted which it is supposed will last till Easter. The rates are collected on a very old assessment; it is difficult to ascertain what they are in the pound on the net rental. It is conjectured that they are about ¼*d.* in the pound on houses and ½*d.* on land, according to the present rent.

MINEHEAD is about 3 miles long and rather more than 2 miles wide, with about 1,220 inhabitants, many of them weavers of coarse cloth. 110 houses pay tax, about 170 exempt. There are 11 ale-houses and one inn. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 4*d.* per lb.; pork, 5½*d.*; butter, 10*d.* Common labourers get 6*s.* to 7*s.* a week, with two or three pints of ale or cider a day. There is one friendly society with about 90 members, whose rules have been confirmed. They have about £300 in the funds. No member is admitted unless he can earn more than 7*s.* a week. Rent of land £1 to £3 an acre. Farms mostly small, but of late farmers are desirous of extending their farms. Tithes partly taken in kind, but mostly compounded for. Land tax about 1*s.* 10*d.* in the pound. There is a large common on which a great number of sheep are kept. A few acres have been enclosed and produce good crops. The Poor are maintained in a Workhouse, for which a rent of £6 5*s.* is paid by the parish, who also rent a large garden for £1 1*s.* The governess has a salary of £5 5*s.* a year.

Table of diet: Breakfast—Sunday, half-a-pound of bread, and a pint of small beer; other days, broth. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, beef or mutton; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, fried greens with potatoes and bread; other days, oatmeal and water boiled, and meat. Supper—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thurs-

day, Friday, bread and small beer; Tuesday, Saturday, bread and cheese. The earnings of the Poor have varied since 1760 from £5 7*s.* 10*d.* in 1782 to £20 12*s.* 11*d.* in 1792. When the rate was first made, in 1735, it was laid at 4*d.* in the pound on houses, and 6*d.* on land, and amounted to £63 3*s.* It has since been reduced to £53 1*s* It is thought that the rate cannot be now more than 3*d.* in the pound on the net rental, as lands are very much improved. There are generally about 30 paupers in the Workhouse; 20 out-pensioners are partly maintained by their friends, and receive a parish allowance from 6*d.* to 2*s.* a week each. Very few receive 2*s.*, which is the highest weekly sum allowed to an out-pensioner. A labourer, who works constantly with a farmer for 6*s.* a week, is generally allowed wheat for his family at 1*s.* a bushel lower than the market price, and at this time few farmers charge their labourers more than 6*s.* or 7*s.* a bushel, for which other persons pay 10*s.* 6*d.* or 11*s.* Before 1760 much live cattle was imported from Ireland. Importation was stopped by the Government, and many cattle which were imported afterwards were seized and sold for the use of the Poor. But as the amount of money was very considerable, and the number of the Poor then wanting relief very trifling, a surplus remained with which an estate in Ottery St. Mary, Devon, was bought. It now produces £20 a year, which are annually distributed among the most necessitous, under the name of cow-money.

Walcot in the city of Bath maintains the Poor partly in a Workhouse and partly at home. At present (Oct., 1795) 101 are in the Workhouse. The contractor receives 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for each person, besides an annual allowance of £40. In consideration of the dearness of provisions, the parish has lately given him an addition of six guineas a week. He provides every necessary wanted in the Workhouse. The parish pay 294 regular out-pensioners. About 10 or 12 receive

casual relief. Settlements are gained principally by service. There are only two farms. Rent of land, 50*s.* to 60*s.* an acre. Land tax under 1*d.* in the pound. There are several friendly societies, but no information could be obtained about them, except that most have had their orders confirmed. Butcher's meat costs 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb. Labourer's wages, 14*d.* to 18*d.* a day. Four sixpenny rates on the net rent were collected in 1794, each of £718 4*s.* 9*d.*, but £200 remains unexpended. The rates for two or three years back have been nearly the same. A considerable part of Bath stands in this parish, and most of the houses have been built in the last 50 years.

STAFFORDSHIRE

LICHFIELD contains three parishes—St. Mary's, St. Chad's, St. Michael's. The first has most houses and inhabitants, but no land. The others have few houses and much land In 1781 there were 722 houses in Lichfield and 3,555 inhabitants The population is supposed to have increased considerably since, 408 houses pay tax, number exempted not ascertained. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 5*d.* per lb.; veal, 4½*d.*; bacon, 9½*d.* and 10*d.*; milk, ¾ quart for 1*d.*; butter, 11*d.* per lb.; potatoes, 4*s.* per bush.; bread flour, 5*s.* per st.; coals, 6*d.* per cwt. The wages of labourers are from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a week, according to the season. Women for weeding get 8*d* per day, for haymaking 10*d.* and victuals. Those who spin lint earn 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day. There are 46 ale-houses, 5 friendly societies for men, 2 for women, with a membership of 100 to 200. Land near the city lets for £3 or £4 an acre. Average about 30*s.* Farms generally small. Tithes mostly taken in kind. The Poor are maintained at home, but St. Mary's and St. Chad's have each a Workhouse. The rates in St. Mary's

are about 3*s.* in the pound on the nominal rental. In the other parishes half the rack rent is assessed. In St. Mary's Workhouse there are 41 inmates, who make a little blanketing for the use of the house. The bill of fare till very lately included puddings and bread and cheese dinners about 3 days a week. On account of the scarcity of bread and flour the following diet is used: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage. Dinner —Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, meat and vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, broth and cold meat; Saturday, bread and cheese. Supper—every day, bread and cheese. The lowness of the rates in St. Michael's (1*s.* 8*d.* in the pound) is ascribed to the parish having a considerable quantity of land. In St. Mary's, where the books were in a very confused state, the net assessments are raised at 4*s.* 8*d.* in the pound, but some houses are not rated at $\frac{2}{3}$ of their real rent. some at more, and some even below $\frac{1}{4}$ of their value. This is the case in almost every populous parish. In the parish of Clifton, between Lichfield and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the rates for many years back have been about 8*d.* in the pound. They are now (August, 1795) only 1*s.* 3*d.* The rise is ascribed to the dearness of provisions and the consolidation of small farms. The parish belongs to one proprietor. In two or three small parishes in this neighbourhood, which consists of large farms, there are very few Poor. The farmers, in order to prevent the introduction of Poor from other parishes, hire their servants for 51 weeks only. This practice would probably be considered fraudulent in a court of law, and a servant who remained on a fresh contract would acquire a settlement in the parish.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — Prices of provisions: Beef, mutton and veal, 4$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; bacon, 8$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; butter, 10$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; bread flour, 5*s.* the stone; milk, 2*d.* the quart. Wages in the different manufactures vary from 9*s.* to £2 a week; men in full employment earn 15*s.* to 25*s.* on an average. A few years ago there

were 134 public houses here, but the number is supposed to have decreased. The population is estimated at near 20,000. The average rent of land near the town is about £3 an acre. Tithes are taken in kind. Wheat is principally cultivated in the parish, but much land is in pasture. No common or waste land. Friendly societies are in great repute. There are 34 clubs, but only one has taken advantage of the Act of Parliament. It was feared that it would be a prelude to taxation and that the magistrates would be authorised to control the funds. It was also thought that application to quarter sessions would be expensive. 12 of the male clubs contain 637 members, and 6 of the female clubs, 351. The principal rules of a society of 71 tradesmen, who meet once a fortnight, provide for an entrance fee of 1*s.* till the money in the box is £10, 1*s.* 6*d.* till it is £20, 2*s.* 6*d.* till it is £30, 3*s.* till it is £40, 5*s.* for £40, and 1*s.* more for every ten pounds till it amounts to £100; 12*s.* for every greater sum. Six months is allowed in which to pay. Every member pays fortnightly 4*d.* to the box and 2*d.* for his ale. No member can draw any benefit till he has been a member 12 months, when he draws 7*s.* a week. If a member dies before he has been a member six months, his representative gets no benefit; if before a year, 30*s.* For members of more than a year's standing the benefit at death, in addition to the burial expenses of 30*s.*, range from 10*s.* to £5 according to the funds in the box. When the funds fall below £20 a levy of 2*d.* on each member in addition to his subscription is made. On the death of a member's wife, or near relative of a bachelor, 30*s.* is allowed when a member has joined for a year. The rules provide for a feast on the 11th July, and again on 26th December, for which every member pays 1*s.*, and 1*s.* extra for liquor, immediately after the cloth is drawn. Whosoever shall talk of state affairs, or challenge anyone to work at his trade, or be heard by any two present to curse or swear, or

propose to lay any wagers, shall forfeit and pay for every particular crime 2*d.* to the box. Members who through blindness or lameness are unable to work at their trade, receive 4*s.* a week for life, with liberty to do anything for his further subsistence. Any member that lays information of another so as to cause the committee to be summoned and does not prove it to the satisfaction of the committee, shall forfeit 2*s.* 6*d.* and ask the injured members pardon in public society.

Expenses and earnings of a spectacle frame-maker: He is 40, has a wife and four children, viz., boys of 10 and 7, girls of 2 and six months. Earnings: The man earns 16*s.* a week (allowing one week for holidays, sickness, etc.), £40 16*s.* He employs 2 boys, by whom he makes 2*s.* a week, £5 4*s.* He lets part of his house for 1*s.* 4*d.* a week, £3 9*s.* 4*d.* Total, £49 9*s.* 4*d.* Expenses: 7 stone flour a month (about 14lbs. a week) which at last year's price 2*s.* 3*d.* (now Aug., 1795, 5*s.*) cost annually £10 4*s.* 9*d.*; 12lbs. meat a week at 4*d.* (now 5*d.*), £10 8*s.*; cheese 2lbs., butter 2lbs. a week, £4 11*s.*; milk, 6*d.* a week; small beer, 6*d.*; strong beer, 1*s.*, annually £5 4*s.*; potatoes, ½ bush. a week, and other vegetables, £4; tea, sugar, soap, candles, estimated at £5; rent, £6; taxes, 10*s.*; shirts, shoes, and other clothing, £4 10*s.* Total, £50 7*s.* 9*d.* Deficiency of earnings, 18*s.* 5*d.* The man could give no account of his disbursements for fuel, or for his wife's lying-in, which occurs about every two years, or for other casual expenses. He declares he has never received relief from the parish, that he is sometimes obliged to bend to difficulties, but never permits his expenditure to exceed his income, and it is believed it may be added with truth that in times of prosperity he is equally careful to prevent his income exceeding his outgoings. The daily meals are bread and milk for the man and son's breakfast, tea for the wife and young children, bread and cheese or meat and vegetables

for dinner, and generally the same for supper. The rates in Wolverhampton were 1*s.* 3*d.* in the pound on the net rental in 1791-2-4, and 1*s.* 8*d.* in 1795.

Bill of fare in the Workhouse: Breakfast—Sunday, oatmeal, hasty pudding and milk; other days, bread and broth. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, meat and vegetables; other days, broth and beer. Supper—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, bread, cheese and beer; other days, bread and beer. On meat days the Poor generally endeavour to save a little meat, to add to their dinner the succeeding day. At broth and beer meals no bread is allowed. As the food is not weighed, the proportion given to each person could not be ascertained. The Poor at Wolverhampton are either relieved at home or maintained in a Workhouse. The war has added very considerably to the number of the Out-Poor. The allowances ranged from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a week per head. A considerable number in 1794 were for soldiers' children. The Workhouse is an inconvenient building, with small windows, low rooms and dark staircases. It is surrounded with a high wall, that gives it the appearance of a prison, and prevents free circulation of air. There are 8 or 10 beds in each room, chiefly of flocks, and consequently retentive of ill scents and very productive of vermin. The passages are in great want of whitewashing. No regular account is kept of births and deaths, but when small pox, measles, or malignant fevers make their appearances in the house, the mortality is very great. Of 131 inmates of the house, 60 are children; the rest, soldiers' wives with families, or infirm, old or insane persons. Those who are able to work are employed in making hop sacks, under a manufacturer who pays 1*s.* 2*d.* a head for every pauper above 8 that can work, for which he is entitled to their earnings, which generally amount to about £80 a year. In the year ending in 1793 the average number of the Poor in the house was 69, the expense of their food 2*s.* 4$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* a week each

In the year ending in 1794 the average number was 101, and the expense 2*s.* 3*d.*

SUFFOLK

BULCAMP.—The Poor of 46 incorporated parishes in the hundred of Blything are maintained in a House of Industry, which is situated on an eminence in the parish of Bulcamp. The cost of erection was £12,000. The house was opened in October, 1766, and in June, 1791, the whole debt was discharged, each parish paying the average of 7 years' expenditure, prior to their incorporation. The rates have been reduced one-eighth. The work done is chiefly spinning for the Norwich manufacturers, and making clothes and bedding for the house. The earnings are about £8 a week, or £400 a year, i.e : Worsted spinners, £4 3*s* 1¾*d.*; tow spinners, £1 12*s.* 1*d.*; sempstresses, 7*s.* 3*d.*; tailors, 9*s.*; knitters, 8*s.*; weavers, 7*s.*; shoemakers, 16*s.* Total, £8 2*s.* 5¾*d.* The inmates number at present (July, 1795) 40 men, 60 women, 255 children. The house is very roomy and convenient. The beds are chiefly of feathers; dormitories, etc., are kept very clean. More work is done now than formerly, but owing to lowness of wages, which, for spinning worsted, are little more than half what they were before the war, receipts have decreased. The number of deaths (nearly 51 a year on an average of 3 years) is very great, but apparently arises from the number of old persons admitted, rather than from any inattention to the sick. In houses of this description much more depends on the conduct of the governor than the weekly committees, or the ablest code of regulations the corporation can devise. A governor and matron who know how to blend firmness with humanity are invaluable servants and cannot be too liberally rewarded. The regulations for the House of Industry are very similar to those of other incorporated parishes.

The bill of fare is as follows: Breakfast—Sunday, Thursday, Saturday, bread and cheese or butter; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, meat broth; Tuesday, milk broth. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, boiled beef, dumplin and roots; Monday, pease pottage with beef broth and dumplin; Wednesday, rice milk or milk broth; Friday, baked suet pudding; Saturday, hot cakes. Supper—every day, bread and cheese or butter. In this hundred the inhabitants of which are all agriculturists, there are several friendly societies, but their number could not be ascertained. Average rent of land, 16*s.* an acre. Tithes generally taken by a composition of 4*s.* 6*d.* an acre. There are several small tracts of waste or common land, but they bear a small proportion to the land in cultivation.

At the Oulton House of Industry near Lowestoft there are 150 paupers. The rates are 16*d.* in the pound on the rack rent. The house has been built about 25 years, and the original debt was £6,000. About £2,000 has been paid off. Spinning woollen yarn and making nets are the principal manufactures in the house. The out-payments are very heavy.

MELTON.—The hundreds of Loes and Wilford were incorporated in 1765, and their House of Industry, which stands in Melton was finished and inhabited in 1768. The original debt was £9,200, none of which has been discharged; it has been increased to near £11,000. The incorporated parishes in 1765 paid £2,069 10*s.* 1*d.* a year, till 1791, when they were raised to £2,759 6*s.* 1*d.*, and it is said that the corporation in spite of their increased income must again apply to Parliament. In 1781 there were 170 inmates, in 1782 220, in 1783 226, in 1793 212, in 1794 230, in 1795 289, principally children. The principal work in the house is spinning wool or worsted. A few men are employed out of doors, on a farm of about 30 acres, where 3 acres of hemp are cultivated for the use of the house, and 6 cows and 2 horses are kept. The boys are employed

as tailors, shoemakers, etc. The earnings in 1792 were: Wool spinning, £91 5*s.*, out-labour, £10; in 1794-5, wool-spinning £64 2*s.* 9*d.*, out-labour £48 11*s.* 2*d.* The earnings of other years could not be ascertained.

Table of diet: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, bread and milk gruel; other days, bread and broth. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, beef, 5oz., dumplins 14oz., 6oz. vegetables; Monday, 12oz. seed cakes; Wednesday, dumplins and sweet sauce; Friday, 14oz. suet puddings; Saturday, bread and cheese. Supper—every day, 8oz. bread and 2oz. cheese to each person. Beer is allowed at every meal when neither broth nor gruel are used. Children receive as much victuals as they can eat. The assessments in the different parishes vary from 1*s.* to 2*s.* in the pound on the net rental. The present governor of the house has calculated that for 280 persons the following are required: Flour, 140 stone; beef, 25st.; cheese, 9st.; butter, 3st. 7lbs.; salt, 3st.; oatmeal, 3 pecks; beer, 6 barrels; soap, 1¼st.; candles, 10lbs. (all per week); coals, 90 chaldron; groceries, £52; draperies, £320; leather, 880lbs. (all per year). The earnings in the house are chiefly by children, yet though more work is done now than formerly, the amount earned is less, as some work that produced 10*d.* before the war is now paid only 6*d.* No disorders prevail in the house that are not common in the neighbourhood, and the number of deaths, about 30 a year, is due to old people being brought thither in their last sickness. Several paupers infected with small pox are lodged in a sort of hospital situated 3 or 400 yards from the house. The greatest neatness prevails in the hall and dormitories. The beds are of feathers, and each is provided with 2 sheets, 2 blankets, and a coverlet. They are placed at a proper distance from each other. Some apartments, however, contain 16 or 18 beds; half the number would be better. The married people have separate rooms. The boys and girls are divided into classes

of about 20 or 30, and are employed, under the superintendence of a school master or mistress, in separate workrooms. The house is pleasantly situated on a dry soil. The present very high prices of provisions and the lowness of wages in the woollen manufacture account for the rise in the rates, but the neglect to pay off any of the debt is said to be due to the bad management of former governors, and the inattention of former committees. The following are a few of the rules for the government of the Poor, which differ from those noticed in similar establishments: Table of allowances: A single man or woman, ill, 1*s.* per week; a man and his wife, both ill, 2*s.* per week; a man and his wife, with two or more children (the man ill), 2*s.* per week, with 6*d.* extra for each child under 10 if necessary; a man and his wife with more than 2 children (the woman ill), 1*s.* per week; a single woman with a bastard, or a widow in health with one child, not objects of relief. A man in health with only 3 children, not generally an object of relief; no allowance for a midwife exceeding 5*s.*, and no allowance except in extraordinary cases, such as a man having more than 2 children or not being in health. The expenses of a funeral not to exceed £1. All paupers, whether in the house or receiving quarterly allowances to wear a badge P. L. W. Overseers are to make themselves acquainted with the situation, circumstances and character of all persons who apply for relief, and report to the weekly committee. Overseers are to enquire whether persons moved to the House of Industry have any weekly or annual allowances (not arising from a friendly society) that steps may be taken that such allowance be secured in aid of maintenance. In the removal of paupers, 20 miles be considered a day's journey. 2*d.* be allowed for a single horse, 3*d.* for a double horse, or a cart with one horse and so in proportion per mile, all expenses included. But if the distance exceed 20 miles, or the overseer be obliged to be out all night, 2*s.* shall be

allowed for himself, 1*s.* for his horse, and 6*d.* for each pauper. No allowance to be granted to any person who keeps a dog, except a shepherd or a warrener. The matron is to see that proper nurses from among the Poor are provided to attend the sick, and infant children, that every room is swept daily and kept clean, washed once a week in winter and twice in summer, the bed clothes turned down, the windows opened and the doors locked till 10 every morning, that the women and girls wash and comb themselves every morning and evening, the children have their hair cut close, and their heads kept clean, that every person have a clean shirt once a week, and the beds clean sheets once a month. It is provided that no child shall be apprenticed who has not had small pox. Prices of provisions in these hundreds are: Beef, 5*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.*; veal, 5*d.*; lamb, 5½*d.* and 6*d.*; pickled pork, 8*d.* to 9*d.*; butter, 10*d.* to 1*s.* for 20oz.; milk, 1½ pints for 1*d.*; wheat, £4 a quarter; barley, 36*s.* to 40*s.* Common labourers get 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day with beer. Women weeding corn, hoeing, etc., 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day. Women and children employed in setting wheat, spinning wool, etc., earn from 3*d.* to 6*d.* a day. Average rent of land, 16*s.* an acre. Farms from £50 to £200 a year. Tithes principally taken by composition varying from 4*s.* to 6*s.* an acre. The farmer generally makes an agreement with the minister for 3, 7 or 14 years, and sometimes for the life of the clergyman. Not much waste land.

At Tatingstone, 6 miles from Ipswich, there is a House of Industry, incorporated in 1765. One-fourth of the debt has been paid off, but the corporation is now obliged to apply to Parliament for authority to increase the rates. The 25 parishes incorporated are almost unanimous in wishing to have the corporation dissolved, as they think they can maintain their Poor at less expense and with more comfort at home, but this measure is strenuously opposed by a neighbouring gentleman.

SURREY

Epsom contains about 4,000 acres, of which 900 acres are downs, etc. Rent of land about £1 an acre. Land tax, generally assessed at net rental, at 2*s.* 1*d.* in the pound. The rental is £7,115. Wages of journeymen, tradesmen and servants the same as in London. Labourers in husbandry get 9*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.* a week, and somewhat more during harvest. Piecework has become common lately. 238 houses pay tax, not more than 100 exempt. Prices of provisions as in London. Coal costs about 7*s.* per chaldron more than in London. The Poor have been farmed for more than 20 years; this reduced the rates by one-half and has kept them at about 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. The contractor receives £550 a year. The average number in the house is 60, never more than 75 or less than 45, but always highest in winter. They are chiefly employed in spinning coarse woollen or linen yarn, but their earnings are small.

Bill of fare: Breakfast—Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, broth; Tuesday, milk porridge; Thursday, Saturday, milk porridge or gruel. Dinner—every day, meat and bread. Supper—every day, bread and cheese or butter. Each person has a pint of small beer at dinner and supper. The provisions are plentiful, wholesome and good. In case of sickness the Poor are attended by a doctor. The children are taught reading and catechism by one of the elder paupers. There are 3 friendly societies, with 127, 118, and 30 members. The two first have £1,250 and £500 in the 3 per cents. The third has only been founded 2 years. No member has ever applied for or received parish relief. Members of the first club pay 10*s.* 6*d.* entrance fee, 1*s.* 3*d.* and 3*d.* for liquor on monthly club nights. A yearly feast is held. Sick benefit is 10*s.* 6*d.* per week, except in case of permanent disablement, when 5*s.* 3*d.* per week is given for life. There is also an accident and

a burial benefit. The second club allows 9*s.* and 4*s.* 6*d.* only.

Earnings and expenses of a gardener, who manages 3 gentlemen's gardens, finding seeds and doing all necessary work for £56: The seeds and labour he hires cost him £16, but as sexton and by odd jobs he earns £10, so that his income is from £45 to £50, a circumstance which has excited some envy. He is a remarkably sober, hard-working and inoffensive man, a member of a friendly society, aged 35, with a wife nearly of the same age, and 8 children (ninth expected). Expenditure: Rent, £4 4*s.*; bread, 13 quartern loaves a week, at 10*d.*, £28 3*s.* 4*d.*; a joint of meat every Sunday, at 4*s.*, £10 8*s.*; a pig bought to fatten, £5; breakfast tea, ¼lb. lasts a fortnight, 1*s.*; 2lbs. sugar a week at 9*d.*, £5 4*s.*; butter, 1½lbs. a week at 15*d.*; cheese, the same, £5 4*s.*; salt, soap and candles, £2 8*s.* 4*d.*; a bushel of coal a week at 1*s.* 6*d.*, £3 18*s.*; small beer, £2 12*s.*; shoes, which he cobbles himself, £2; clothes (much is given them), £4; medical attendance, midwifery, and inoculation, 10*s.*; schooling of one child (the rest at the expense of neighbours), 12*s.*; friendly society, 18*s.* Total, £75 1*s.* 8*d.* There is no reason to think this account exaggerated or in any respect mis-stated, and yet there is an evident surplusage of a very large sum beyond what he acknowledges he earns. Still, he says even in this dear year he has not yet contracted much debt. An attempt has been made to compile a similar account of several other labourers in this parish, but the results were always an excess of expenditure, and were probably inaccurate.

ESHER is about 2 miles long by 1½. 96 houses pay tax, about 30 exempt. Prices of provisions: Beef, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; mutton, 7*d.*; veal, 7*d.* to 7½*d.*; fresh butter, 13*d.*; salt butter, 10*d.*; old milk, 1*d.* per quart; new milk, 2*d.*; bread, 1*s.* the quartern loaf; eggs, 1*d.* each; coals, £2 7*s.* the chaldron. Labourers get 9*s.* a week and beer all the year round;

about 3*s.* a day in harvest; 10*s.* an acre for reaping and 3*s.* 6*d.* an acre for mowing. Women for weeding, etc., get 1*s.* a day. Rent of land, 15*s.* to £3 an acre. Average, £1 5*s.* A composition, varying from 3*s.* 8*d.* to 5*s.* 8*d.* is taken for tithe. Land tax, 1*s.* 3*d.* in the pound on the net rental. Between 400 and 500 acres of common. There are 8 ale-houses and one friendly society with 61 members, which gives 8*s.* a week sick benefit, 4*s.* a week to superannuated members, and £8 on death. No honorary members. The Poor are farmed in a house provided and furnished by the parish. The contractor receives £270, for which he maintains all the Poor except a certain number of old persons of respectable condition, who have, through mere misfortune, been reduced to poverty, and are supported by the parish officers. The parish also helps to support several out-pensioners. The inmates are generally about 30; at present (July, 1795) 25, of whom 6 are young children, the rest old and infirm. No manufacture is carried on; a few are employed in the fields, and their earnings paid to the contractor. The bill of fare is as follows, though it is varied with the consent of the Poor, according to the season. They are not stinted to any particular quantity. Breakfast—Sunday, bread and butter or cheese, and 1 pint beer; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, bread and broth; Tuesday, Thursday, bread and milk pottage; Saturday, the same or water gruel. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, bread, beef, vegetables, and one pint of beer; Monday, bread and butter and one pint of beer; Wednesday, bread and cold meat with beer or rice milk; Friday, bread and cold meat or milk pottage; Saturday, suet pudding and one pint of beer. Supper—every day, bread and cheese and one pint of beer.

FARNHAM contains about 9,600 acres, 3,000 inhabitants, 590 houses, of which 340 pay tax and 250 are exempt. Prices of provisions: Beef, 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton, 6*d.*; veal, 5*d.*; potatoes, 1*s.* 6*d.* per bush.;

butter, 1*s.* per lb.; milk, 1*d.* per pint; bread, 11½*d.* per quartern loaf. Labourers get 1*s.* 6*d.*, but in harvest and hop-picking 2*s.* a day. Work is done mostly by the piece, averaging 10*s.* 6*d.* a week throughout the year. There are 27 ale-houses and 3 friendly societies with about 270 members. In two the monthly payments are 14*d.* to the box and 2*d.* for liquor. The sick allowance is 7*s.* a week. In the other, each member pays 16*d.* to the box, 2*d.* for liquor and receives 8*s.* a week when sick. They are much encouraged by honorary members. Their rules have been confirmed. Hop grounds let from £3 to £12 an acre, but other land often not more than 15*s.* Farms generally small. Tithes mostly taken in kind. Land tax said to be collected at 2*s.* in the pound. About 2,600 acres of common. The Poor are farmed in a Workhouse, built in 1791, on a good plan and stands in an excellent situation, about half a mile from the town. The old Workhouse stood in the town and is said to have been a most wretched one. The contractor is allowed the use of the house and furniture, and the earnings of the Poor, and receives £1,000 a year for which he is bound to maintain the Poor of every description, but not bear the expense of removals, appeals, or other law contests. There are at present (Oct., 1795) 124 inmates, of whom 50 are old and infirm, and generally about the same in winter. There are a few out-pensioners, but the payments are very trifling, as it is more for the interest of the contractor to offer the Poor who apply for relief no alternative but the house. The infirm who can work are employed in picking wool, the children attend the carding machine, spin, etc., and are taught to read twice a day. Boys and girls, men and women sleep in different quarters of the house. The contractor says he keeps no account of expenses or earnings.

Table of diet: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, onion pottage; other days, bread and

broth. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, meat pudding and vegetables; other days, bread, cheese and beer. Supper—Sunday, Monday, Thursday, bread and beer; other days, bread, cheese and beer. Such women as have friends who give them tea and sugar for breakfast, have bread allowed them. The parish is generally assessed at half rental. The rate, however, is seldom very regular, as farms are assessed at half rental where the rent is known. Owner-occupiers are not rated at more than what the farm was let for 70 years ago. The parish is now undergoing a new survey and valuation. The sum paid to the county stock is very fluctuating. The cost of building the Workhouse was near £4,000, of which £800 has been repaid. About £100 were subscribed last winter (1794-5) to which £200 were added from the rates for selling bread to the Poor at reduced prices. The tradesmen complain that the farmers would not raise the wages of labour, but got the labourers supported by the parish, though reaping great advantages from the very cause of the labourers becoming necessitous. When the Poor are not farmed, rates were highest, and have fallen when they were farmed. The reason is obvious: a contractor's object is gain. He therefore allows little to the Poor outside the house and keeps those in it closely to work, by which means the idle, the lazy, and—it may be added—the modest Poor and old people (who decline making applications that would oblige them to quit old habitations and neighbours for perhaps more elegant apartments and profligate associates in a Workhouse), often go unrelieved.

REIGATE is about 3½ miles long north to south, and east to west. There are 400 inhabited houses; 119 in the borough and 87 in the foreign part of the parish pay tax. The rest are exempt. The population is about 2,000. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 7*d.* per lb.; veal, 7½*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; pickled pork, 9½*d.*; pork, 7½*d.*; potatoes, 2*s.* 6*d.* per bush.; cheese,

7d. per lb. ; salt butter, *10d.* ; fresh, *1s.* per lb. Labourers get from *1s. 8d.* to *2s.* a day. Their usual diet is wheaten bread. There are 2 inns and 12 ale-houses. No friendly societies. Farms generally small. Tithes taken by composition. About 600 acres of common. The Poor of the united parishes of Reigate, Buckland, Nutfield, Headley and Morley are maintained in a House of Industry, under Gilbert's Act, by a contractor, who receives £930 a year, and the profits of their labour. £1,000 was spent in building the house and the purchase of 10 acres of garden.

Table of diet : Breakfast—every day, water gruel with pottage, or broth and bread. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, ox beef or mutton, with pease or other vegetables, bread and small beer ; Monday, Saturday, stewed ox cheek or legs or shins of beef with small beer ; Wednesday, Friday, suet pudding or rice milk, sweetened with sugar, and small beer. Supper—every day, bread and cheese or bread and butter and small beer. One pint of beer is allowed for adults, and a discretionary allowance for children. Before the establishment of the House of Industry the Poor were maintained in the parish Workhouse. The contractor is bound to allow *1s. 6d.* a week to such Out-Poor as the magistrates think ought to be relieved at home. The expenditure on the Poor in Reigate borough is about £300 a year, and in Reigate foreign £692. The rate in the borough is about *5s. 8d.*, and in the foreign *4s.* till 1795, when on a new valuation it was reduced to *3s.*

WALTON UPON THAMES contains 280 houses, of which 158 pay tax, 122 exempt. Before the war labourers received *8s.* a week in winter, *9s.* in summer. Now (July, 1795) *9s.* a week in winter and *10s.* to *12s.* in summer. In hay and corn harvest, wages are *2s.* to *3s.* a day, reaping an acre of wheat *10s.*, mowing an acre of grass *3s. 6d.* Women earn *1s.*. a day for weeding. Rent is £2 an acre for meadow land, 31*s.*

for inclosed arable, and £1 for common field land. Land tax is 1*s.* 3½*d.* in the pound on the net rental. Tithes mostly taken in composition. Farms generally £50 to £100 a year. About 4,000 acres of common. In consequence of encroachments, about 40 or 50 acres have been enclosed in the last 40 years. There are 9 ale-houses, and 2 friendly societies with 56 and 71 members One has had its rules confirmed The other has been established only half a year. The Poor are maintained by a contractor, who receives £500 a year, and keeps them in a Poor-house. There are usually 70 to 75 inmates in winter, and 45 in summer. They generally have meat for dinner, and bread and broth for breakfast and supper. 12 poor widows, above 70 years old, have an out-allowance of 1*s* a week each.

There have been great disputes in this parish about the administration of parochial concerns. A very respectable committee appointed by the parishioners in 1791 to manage the affairs of the parish stated in a printed paper that in the course of a few years the expenditure in the article of Poor's Rates only had increased from £400 to £836 a year. In order to find employment for the Poor, who are very numerous, they distributed spinning wheels among the women and children, but spinning is now wholly laid aside and the management of the parish is now in the hands of the opposite party.

SUSSEX

Burwash lies about 6 miles east of Mayfield. It contains 230 houses, and 1,100 inhabitants. About 5,000 acres are cultivated, 1,200 are wood, and 200 commons of little value. The rental exceeds £3,100 a year. The Poor's Rates were 4*s.* 6*d.* in the pound in 1793, 5*s.* 3*d.* in 1794, and 6*s.* 3*d.* in 1795, and raised £900. Twenty years before their whole amount was £550. Thirty years before they did not exceed £400.

From this short though singular account, it appears that one-fourth of the population are paupers, that nearly one-third of the rental goes to their relief, and that the expenses are daily and rapidly increasing.

CHAILEY is about 6 miles from Lewes, on the London Road. 6 houses are rated to house-tax, 57 pay window tax, 47 are inhabited by paupers and exempt from window duty. Of these 11 are double tenements, so that on the whole 58 are exempt. There are about 500 inhabitants. Prices of provisions: Butcher's meat, 5*d*. to 6*d*. per lb.; fat hogs, from 4*s*. 3*d*. to 4*s*. 6*d*. per st. Price of fish very variable. Since the advance in the price of provisions, labourer's wages have risen from 14*d*. to 18*d*. in winter, and from 16*d*. to 2*s*. in summer, but much work is done by the piece. Rent of land about 10*s*. an acre. Land tax 2*s*. 8*d*. in the pound. Tithes paid by composition at 4*s*. in the pound. Farms from £20 to £100 a year. A large part of the parish is in grass, and there are about 1,000 acres of common, on which the Poor have flocks and herds. Arthur Young (Annals of Agriculture V. 222) ascribes the heavy Poor's Rates to the existence of these commons. There are two ale-houses, and one Friendly Society, with a subscription of 1*s*. a month. The principal diet of labourers is wheaten bread. Several fatten a pig once a year. A few brew their own beer, but since the advance in the price of malt, both the brewing and consumption of beer have been much discontinued, and the tea and spirits substituted, mostly smuggled. There are generally 35 or 40 Poor, chiefly aged and infirm persons or orphan or deserted children in the Workhouse. Several pensioners have weekly allowances, and many families receive occasional relief. Labourers, with 3 or more children, are usually allowed 40*s*. a year for house rent by the parish, and since the dearth of corn, they have received every now and then a gallon of flour for each child at 10*d*. a gallon, the overplus being paid by the parish In 1776 the expenses for the Poor amounted

to £323 1*s.* 5*d.* In 1795 the rate was 8*s.* 4*d.* in the pound on the net rental. The sums collected by the Poor's Rate defray the repairs to the church, and other church dues, the county rate, maintenance of militia men's families, substitutes, etc., as well as charges relative to the Poor.

PEASMARSH is about 4 miles from Rye, and contains about 800 or 900 inhabitants. There is one public house, and a few small shops which have been opened in the last ten years. Labourers get 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* a day, 2*s.* in hay and 2*s.* 6*d.* in corn harvest. Work is, however, usually done by the piece. The tithes are compounded for. There are 21 inmates in the house, of whom 14 are children. 17 families receive weekly pay, and 5 or 6 occasional relief. The parish allowances to the Out-Poor amount to £2 4*s.* a week. Certificates are rarely granted. Removals seldom occur. There is a small charity of 40*s.* a year. The parish expect that a labourer will maintain himself and three children, for all above three they usually allow 1*s.* a week. A man with three children (the youngest 6 years old) can earn £3 above his ordinary wages every hop season. The number of cottages has more than doubled in the last 20 years. No Friendly Society. The Rates have been: 1786, 4*s.* 6*d.*; 1787, 3*s.* 6*d*; 1788, 4*s*; 1789, 5*s*; 1790, 3*s* 6*d*; 1791, 3*s*; 1792, 3*s*; 1793, 4*s*

WINCHELSEA contains about 100 families, of 5½ persons each on the average Labourers get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, 2*s.* in hay and 2*s.* 6*d.* and more in corn harvest. Work however is generally performed by the piece. The rent of land is various, marsh land being £1 10*s.* and upland £1 per acre. Tithes usually compounded for at 2*s.* 3*d.* in the pound on the rental. The number of Poor in the Workhouse is 15, of whom 8 are children. The house is very small, and no regular work is carried on, but a few paupers earn a little occasionally from driving the plough, watching new sown fields, etc. The whole of their earnings do not exceed £10 a year. Of 55 Out-

Poor, half are adults, chiefly old and infirm, and half under 15 years. The parish pays several house rents, amounting to about £30 a year. Till lately the Poor were farmed for £200 a year. No Friendly Society has been established in this parish. Certificates seldom granted. Removals, when they occur, which is not often, are very expensive. There are no charities.

WARWICKSHIRE

ALCESTER.—The Poor are relieved at their own houses as long as they can be satisfied with 1*s.* 6*d.* a week each. When that is not sufficient, they are taken into the Workhouse, which was established in 1774. Before then the Poor were maintained at the expense of 13 sixpenny levies, or about 6*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, which raised about £530. The assessments have been reduced to 9 levies, so there has been a saving of 2*s.* in the pound. The amount paid weekly in sums not exceeding 1*s.* 6*d.* is on the average £5, a very heavy expense for Out-Poor in a parish of about 1,000 inhabitants. The average number of Poor in the house during the last 5 years was 25, chiefly infirm old people, and very young children. They are principally employed in carding and spinning, but their earnings are too inconsiderable to make any difference. The diet is extremely good: hot meat dinners three times a week, with good small beer; the other days cold meat, if any left, with bread and cheese; broth for breakfast, and bread and cheese for supper except on meat days.

BIRMINGHAM contains 2,864 acres. The population is not known, but it is supposed that it amounted to between 60 and 70,000 persons before the war, as the author of the history of the town says that not quite 4,000 houses pay parochial rates, and that more than 7,000 were exempt. The Poor are relieved partly at home and partly in a Workhouse, in which various manufactures, chiefly weaving, spinning, wool-combing,

and flax-dressing are carried on. The house is clean and tolerably convenient, but does not stand in a detached situation. Bill of fare: Breakfast—every day, gruel. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, meat, bread, etc.; Monday, Friday, bread and cheese; Saturday, pease soup. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, broth, etc.; Monday, Friday, milk pottage; Saturday, bread and cheese.

Births and deaths in the Workhouse for 6 years:

		Births.			Deaths.				
Year.	Av.No.in house.	Boys.	Girls.	T'l.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	T'l.
1791	350	24	20	44	58	51	12	7	128
1792	400	25	18	43	62	55	12	7	136
1793	470	20	15	35	28	39	14	12	93
1794	640	43	20	63	41	57	40	24	162
1795	500	25	36	61	28	57	18	18	121
1796 to Sept. 2.	464	25	16	41	27	39	8	8	82

In 1790 the number of Out-Poor in receipt of relief for themselves or children was 2,053, children at nurse 198, children of runaway husbands 22, children of persons absconded from weekly payments for their bastard children 10. In 1790 the usual parish pay for a child at nurse was 2*s.* a week, for children at home 1*s.* 6*d.*, for old men and widows 1*s.* except cases of great age and infirmity, when they are allowed 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.*, and in a few cases 2*s.* 6*d.* each. In June, 1796, there were 684 old and infirm widows, 550 soldiers' wives, 13 seamen's wives, 143 bastard children, 1,522 legitimate children, as well as militia men's wives and children at nurse (number not stated). Total of persons receiving out-relief, 4,660. As the number in family is not specified, it is not possible to ascertain the exact number of the Poor, but if the number in the general hospital and charity schools be included, it is probable that one-fifteenth of the population of Birmingham, or even a twelfth if the number of soldiers raised in Birmingham in the last three years be deducted from the population, is in receipt of regular

or occasional charity. The rates are said to be 10*s.* in the pound on the net rental. The trade of this "Toy-shop of Europe," as Mr. Burke calls it, has suffered very considerably by the war, particularly in the article of buttons and buckles. When work was brisk, women in this line earned from 7*s.* to 10*s.* a week; men from £1 to £1 10*s.*; working gunsmiths get about £2 2*s.* a week Common labourers earn about 10*s* a week, bricklayers 3*s* a day, and their men 2*s* 6*d.* a day. At the canal which is cutting in the neighbourhood, men earn 3*s.* a day. There are innumerable friendly societies and clubs (in the nature of raffles) for the encouragement of particular trades in this town.

COVENTRY contains three parishes—Trinity, St. Michael's and St. John's. The two latter comprise 3,665 acres. 578 houses pay tax, the number exempt not ascertained. Ribbons are the principal article made here. Much worsted was formerly made into tammies, but that branch of business is now on the decline. The cotton manufacture employs about 40 persons. Prices of provisions: Beef, mutton, veal, 5*d.* per lb.; bacon, 9*d.* to 10*d.*; butter, 10*d.*; milk, 1½*d.* per qt.; bread, scarcely 4lbs. for 1*s.*; coals, 8*d.* per cwt.; malt, 7*s.* per bush. Ribbon weavers earn 8*s.* to 12*s.* a week; children in winding silk, etc., 2*s.* to 3*s.* a week; common labourers, 6*s.* in summer and 4*s.* in winter with victuals; carpenters, 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; masons, 2*s.* 4*d.*; masons' labourers, 20*d.* a day with two pints of beer but no victuals. There are 105 inns and ale-houses, 33 friendly societies with 36 members each on an average. It is thought all have their orders confirmed by the magistrates. Average rent of land about 30*s.* to 35*s.* an acre. Farms generally about £120, mostly in pasture. Land pays no tithe; houses from £6 to £10 rent pay 6*d.* in the pound instead of tithe; £10 and upwards 1*s.* in the pound. Land tax about 1*s.* 6*d.* on the fair rental. 220 acres of common. St. Michael and St. John parishes are incorporated for

the maintenance of their Poor, who are mostly supported in a large well-constructed Workhouse, provided with good gardens. A court separates the men's lodging rooms from the women's. There are 6 to 12 beds (of flocks) in each room. Several iron bedsteads have been purchased lately, as the house was much infested with bugs. This is not to be wondered at, as the staircases and passages appear to be seldom swept. The different apartments are very dirty, and the walls want whitewashing. The high walls of the yard obstruct the free current of air. About 250 Poor are in the house usually in winter, and 200 in summer. At present (Aug., 1795) 196, chiefly children, old people, women with bastards, and lunatics. They are chiefly employed in winding and twisting silk, spinning mop yarn, jersey, etc. Two or three looms are used for weaving jersey, and another was lately erected for weaving a sort of rug, but has not answered the purpose. All who work in the silk business earn 1s. a week. The yearly earnings are about £110. About £80 paid weekly to 330 families of out-pensioners, one-quarter of which are militia men's families.

Bill of fare in the Workhouse: Breakfast—every day, broth or milk and bread; some have bread and cheese on working days. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, broth, meat, bread and vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, bread, cheese and beer; Saturday, beef, soup and bread. Supper—every day, bread, cheese and beer. Beer is served at every meal, but no account could be obtained of the quantity of victuals allowed to each person. Both the manufacture and the Poor's Rates are very fluctuating. The markets are often overstocked with ribbons, and the manufacturers are thrown on the parish for support. Sometimes there is a great demand for this article, and the parochial burdens are lessened. This is the case at present. The Poor's Rate for 1794 was 10s. in the pound on about five-eighths of the real rental. The

buildings in Coventry are old-fashioned, with projecting fronts, the streets narrow, dirty, and have an offensive smell, but the country round the city is dry and pleasant. No satisfactory account of the population could be obtained, but some years ago it was estimated at 22 or 23,000 persons. In a country parish on one side of the city, chiefly consisting of cottages inhabited by ribbon weavers, the rates are as high as in Coventry. In another on the opposite side they do not exceed one-third of the city rate. This is ascribed to the care taken to prevent manufacturers settling in the parish.

MOLLINGTON is partly in Oxfordshire and partly in Warwickshire. It contains about 1,600 acres, all in common field, rented at 18*s.* an acre. There are 8 farms, all of which pay window tax ; 37 cottages exempt Wages are from 6*s.* to 10*s.* a week, according to the season. Women spin jersey and earn 3*d.* or 4*d* a day. Land tax about 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound Poor's Rate about 2*s.* A few years ago not half that sum. This is all that could be learned respecting parochial concerns. The parish officers refused to give any information lest a discovery of the smallness of the taxes in their parish might oblige them to contribute towards easing the heavy burdens of the neighbouring parishes. The Poor's Rates in this neighbourhood vary from 2*s.* to 4*s.*, the difference being due to the facility or difficulty of obtaining settlements. In several parishes a fine is imposed on a parishioner who settles a new-comer by hiring or otherwise, so that a servant is seldom hired by the year.

SOUTHAM contains about 1,700 acres and 750 inhabitants. 86 houses pay tax. 110 exempt. Prices of provisions : Beef and mutton, 5*d.* per lb. ; veal, 4½*d.* and 5*d.* ; bacon, 10*d.* ; butter, 9*d.* ; milk, ½*d.* the pint ; bread, 4lbs. for 1*s.* Labourers earn 6*s.* a week in winter, 7*s.* in summer, in harvest 1*s.* 6*d.* a day ; women weeding corn, etc., 6*d.* a day, and for haymaking

8*d*. without victuals. In spinning jersey, about 4*d*. a day. There are 15 ale-houses and one friendly society with 93 members. They meet once a quarter, spend 3*d*. and pay 2*s*. to the box. An annual feast is held on Whit Tuesday, when all attend the parish church, and hear a sermon, for which the parson receives half-a-guinea. A sick member registered one year receives 3*s*. a week, if two years 6*s*. Members incapacitated by old age earn what they can, and receive 6*s*. a week. On the death of a member the widow gets £5, i.e., £2 from the box and £3 by levy from the members. The age of admission is 16 to 35, and the entrance fee 10*s*. There are no honorary members. The rules have been confirmed. Average rent of land, £1 an acre. Farms generally from £30 to £50 a year. The parish was inclosed in 1760 and land allowed in lieu of tithes. Land tax about 1*s*. 6*d*. No commons. The Poor are partly farmed. The contractor receives such paupers as the parish thinks proper, at 2*s*. 9*d*. a head. Ten paupers are now in the house. There is no settled course of diet. No out-pauper receives more than 1*s*. a week. The weekly payments amount to £2 18*s*. The rates are laid on the nominal rental, which is about 2/3rds of the real rent, and were in 1775, 1*s*. 6*d*.; 1783, 2*s*. 2*d*.; 1790, 2*s*. 2*d*.; 1791, 2*s*. 3*d*.; 1792, 2*s*. 2*d*.; 1793, 2*s*. 4*d*.; 1794, 3*s*.; 1795, 2*s*. 8*d*.

Sutton Coldfield contains about 21,000 acres, one-half of which is uncultivated. 203 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions the same as in Birmingham. Labourers get 9*d*. to 1*s*. a day, and victuals. Work, however, is generally done by the piece, at which labourers earn more than by the day. There are 14 ale-houses, and 5 Friendly Societies with from 40 to 120 members. The rules in general provide for the payment of 1*s*. a month, to receive 6*s*. a week when sick, and 5*s*. a week for life when permanently disabled. Rules not yet confirmed. Rent of land about 23*s*. an acre. Farms chiefly about £50.

Tithes taken by composition. Wheat 6*s.* per acre; barley, oats, pease, etc., 4*s.* 6*d.* A small modus for hay tithe. Land tax about 1*s.* 3*d.* on net rental. About 5,000 acres of common. In August, 1795, there were 37 paupers in the Workhouse, chiefly old, infirm persons or children. 10 infants are nursed out of the house. Some women knit and spin a little for the house; one man works out and earns 1*s* a day. The children are taught to read by a school mistress, and are put out as apprentices when 12 years old. The house in general appears to be tolerably clean; the beds are of feathers, flocks, and chaff, five or six to a room. The following is the bill of fare that was observed before the present scarcity of bread took place. Since then meat has been used every day, together with an unusual quantity of potatoes, which will be continued till new corn is brought to market: Breakfast—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, milk pottage or bread and beer; other days, broth and bread. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, meat and vegetables; other days, bread and cheese and beer. Supper—bread, cheese and beer. At dinner and supper on meat days, half-a-pint, and on other days, one pint of beer is allowed each person. The Poor are not stinted to a limited quantity at dinner. For the last five years there have been 6 sixpenny rates a year, or 3*s.* in the pound. The vestry clerk says the Rates have been nearly the same for more than 20 years back, and as those who occupy their own farms or houses have never been rated under a new valuation, the equivalent is probably about 2*s.* on the net rental. £927 is raised, of which £70 or £80 goes to the County Stock; about £37 is paid in salaries. The rest goes to the relief of the Poor. The parish of Sutton Coldfield is divided into 4 quarters, each of which has an overseer. The Poor here, besides the right of commonage, have this peculiar privilege, that every housekeeper may take in one acre of common and plough it 4 years. The fifth year he must sow it with clover and lay it to the common again.

After which he may take another acre and work it in like manner. By this method about 400 acres of common are constantly kept in tillage. It might be supposed that with these extraordinary privileges the Poor were in a most comfortable condition. This, however, is far from being the case. The Poor are numerous and the Rates high, and this parish among others affords an unequivocal proof that a right of common does not add either to the comfort or the happiness of the Poor.

WESTMORLAND

KENDAL, which, with the township of Kirkland, contained 7,571 inhabitants in 1784, had 8,089 in July, 1793. In Kendal 430 houses pay tax; the numbee exempt was not ascertained. Men in the weaving line earn from 8*s.* to 12*s.* a week; women about 4*s.* Dyers about 9*s.*, wool-combers from 12*s.* to 16*s.*; masons and carpenters 12*s.* Children at 7 or 8 years of age knit stockings and work in the various manufactories, earning about 1*s.* a week. The war has not much affected the manufactures. Wages of agricultural labourers are about 10*s.* a week. In some parts of the county, however, men do not receive more than 6*s.* a week, without diet. Prices of provisions on 4th April, 1795, are: Flour, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.* per stone of 16lbs.; oatmeal, 2*s.* 2*d.*, ditto; butter, 8½*d.* per lb. of 16oz., at some seasons it is as low as 6*d.* per lb.; eggs, 6 for 2*d.*; new milk, 1½*d.* the quart; old milk, ½*d.* for 3 gills; butchers' meat, 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; potatoes, 3*d.* for 4 quarts heaped measure. Salmon from May to August, 4*d.* to 1*s.* per lb. The townships of Kirkland and Kendal contain 48 ale-houses, in which according to the supervision of excise 6,620 barrels of ale, each containing 34 gallons, or 225,080 gallons in all, are drunk annually. Owing to the new duty on spirits the consumption of malt liquor increased last year. A large proportion is drunk by manufacturers, especially on Sunday, a day much

devoted to tippling. Oatcake is the principal bread used by the labouring classes. The men generally eat hasty pudding or boiled milk twice a day. The women live much on tea, but have of late discontinued the use of sugar. Potatoes are a very general article for dinner. They are sometimes eaten with a little butter, and sometimes with meat, not infrequently without either. The money that should be expended on substantial food is too often applied to the purchase of ale. Barley bread was lately very generally introduced into Westmorland, but since oatmeal has fallen a little in price, barley has been less used. The usual fuel is peat or coal; the latter brought from Wigan, Black Burton or Stainmore, and if used in the most sparing manner costs a poor family £5 a year. At Kendal labouring people do not manufacture their own clothing as is done in some parts of the county. They generally purchase clothes second-hand. The insides of cottages near the town exhibit every appearance of misery. The Poor are either relieved at home or maintained in a Workhouse, which is a commodious building, in an airy situation, and kept with great neatness and propriety. It contains 55 rooms, 35 of which are lodging rooms, very judiciously distributed. A garden supplies vegetables. Beans and cabbages are occasionally substituted for potatoes, and bacon for beef, but the usual rotation is: Breakfast—Every day, hasty pudding and milk, or milk boiled with oatmeal. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, milk pottage and bread; Monday, Thursday, Saturday, broth, boiled beef, potates and bread; Tuesday, hough stewed, potatoes and bread. Supper—every day same as breakfast. The allowance of bread is very plentiful. On beef days each person is allowed half-a-pound of beef without any distinction being paid to age or sex. There were in the house on 4th April, 1795, 136 persons, viz., 57 males, 79 females, of which 38 were under 10, 26 between 10 and 20, 12 between 20 and 30, 8 between 30 and 40, 15 between 40 and 50, 4 between 50 and 60,

17 between 60 and 70, 10 between 70 and 80, 6 between 80 and 90. Their employments are various. Men are generally employed out of the house; women spin and make Kendal cottons, etc.; children are generally sent to the different manufactories, where they earn about 1*s.* a week each. Encouragement money is paid to the industrious, viz., 1*d.* for every shilling earned. Also 6*d.* is paid to the baker, 5*d.* to the cook, 5*d.* to the cook's assistant, 6*d.* to the chambermaid, 4*d.* to the schoolmaster, 3*d.* to the knitter, and 4*d.* to the labourer. The deaths in the house were: 1791, 33 (a fever prevailed); 1792, 15; 1793, 15; 1794, 10. Weekly pensions amounting to £2 0*s.* 2*d.* for the week 3rd April are paid to a number of casual Poor, mostly for children, but the average for the previous ten weeks was £5 12*s.* 9*d.* The weekly pensions to regular Out-Poor amounted to £6 2*s.* 7*d.* The weekly charge for bastards out of the house was 17*s.* 6*d.*, and for the families of militia men £1 11*s.* 0*d.* The annual disbursements for the Poor, which were £369 odd in 1764, rose gradually till they reached £1,066 in 1780, and were £1,751 in 1795, which included £100 for a new bridge, and several small sums not immediately applicable to the Poor. At a charity school 50 boys and 30 girls are clothed and educated, and there is a free grammar school for children of every description. Eight poor widows are provided with cottages and receive 1*s.* 6*d.* a week each, 1*s.* 6*d.* each on Christmas Eve, and 8*d.* on Ascension Day.

There are 20 benefit societies in Kendal, of which 7 are trade clubs, which admit none but persons of the same trade. Of the others, one called the Friendly Society, has 140 members, the others about 100 each. The members meet once a month, pay 10*d.* to the box spend 2*d.* in liquor, and draw 6*s.* if temporarily disabled, or 3*s.* if permanently. An annual feast is held on Whit Monday.

Earnings and expenses of a weaver of tolinet.[1]

[1] These accounts were collected in June, 1796.

The man is 36, the wife 40; they lost 8 children and have 3 living, a girl of 12, a boy of 4, and a girl of 1¾. The man is sometimes rather sickly. The man's earnings are yearly £26. The eldest girl knits stockings by which she earns £3 9*s.* 4*d.* The wife's father boards with them at 4*s.* 6*d.* a week. £11 14*s.* The wife bakes and sells wheaten bread by which she clears 2*s.* a week, £5 4*s.* Total, £46 7*s.* 4*d.* Expenses: 70 stone of oatmeal for bread and pottage at 2*s.* 4*d.* per st., £8 3*s.* 4*d.*; wheaten bread and flour, £6 10*s.*; butcher's meat, £5; milk, 10*d.* a week, £2 2*s.* 4*d.*; butter, 2lbs. a week, at 9*d.* per lb., £3 18*s.*; tea and sugar at 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, £3 18*s.*; potatoes, 1*s.* a week, £2 12*s.*; ale, 6*d.* a week, £1 6*s.*; soap, starch, blue and candles, £3; fuel; peat and coal, £3 18*s.*; house rent, £2 2*s.* For clothes for all the family except the wife's father and other articles there remains only £3 17*s.* 8*d.* Total, £46 7*s.* 4*d.* The family find it very difficult to prevent their expenses exceeding their receipts.

A calico weaver: Man 39, wife 40. They have 7 children—a girl of 20 (not at home), two girls 18 and 16, boy 13, girls 10 and 7, and boy 1½. The man earns 9*s.* a week, yearly £23 8*s* The second daughter weaves, getting 4*s.* a week, £10 8*s.* The third gets 2*s.* 6*d.* by weaving, £6 10*s.* The eldest boy 2*s.* 6*d.*, £6 10*s.* The fourth girl knits stockings, earning 6*d.* a week, £1 6*s.* The parish allows them £5 4*s.* Total, £53 6*s.* Expenses: 150st. oatmeal, £17 10*s.*; butcher's meat, £1 10*s.*; tea and sugar, £2 12*s.*; milk, ½*d.* the quart (wine measure), 3*s.* a week, £7 16*s.*; butter, 3lbs. a week at 9*d.*, £5 17*s.*; treacle, 10*s.*; beer, 1 gall. at 4*d.*, 17*s.* 4*d.*; fish, cheese, etc., 5*s.*; potatoes, 18 quarts a week for 40 weeks, at 1*s.* 9*d.*, £3 10*s.*; starch, soap, candles, etc., £3; rent, £1 17*s.*; fuel, 2*s.* a week for 26 weeks, and 1*s.* 4*d.* a week for 26 weeks, £4 6*s.* 8*d.*; remains for clothing which is mostly old or given, £3 15*s.* Total, £53 6*s.*

A weaver, man 56, wife 54. 2 girls, 11 and 8, boy 7.

The man, including his daughter's winding, earns 9*s.* a week, £23 8*s.* The wife weaves Kendal cotton, earning 2*s.* 3*d.* a week, £5 17*s.* Total, £29 5*s.* Expenses: 8ost. oatmeal, £9 6*s.* 8*d.*; milk, 1*s.* 4*d.* a week, £3 9*s.* 4*d.*; 90lbs. butter at 9*d.*, £3 7*s.* 6*d.*; fish and meat (little eaten since the late advance in price), 6*s.*; tea and sugar, used only on Sundays, £1; potatoes, 12 quarts a week for 40 weeks, £2 10*s.*; beer and ale, £1; candles, soap, starch, etc., £1 10*s.*; rent, £1 11*s.*; fuel, £4; remains for clothes and subscriptions for the box club, £1 4*s.* 6*d.* Total, £29 5*s.* This man and his family often receive clothes from his employer. Both he and his wife are frequently sick, but when he cannot work he gets 6*s.* a week from his friendly society.

A weaver of 40 has a wife and 7 children, viz., girls of 17, 15, 10, 7, 5, and boys of 12 and 6 months. The eldest girl is out at service. The man with his wife's winding earns 10*s.* a week, £26; he fiddles a little by which he earns £1 10*s.*; the second girl weaves coarse cloth and earns 2*s.* a week, £5 4*s.*; the third girl knits and earns 1*s.* 4*d.* a week, £3 9*s.* 4*d.*; the parish allowed them last year 13*s.* Total, £36 16*s.* 4*d.* Expenses: 9ost. oatmeal, £10 10*s.*; potatoes, 18 quarts a week for 40 weeks, £3 10*s.*; milk, 1*d.* a quart, 2*s.* a week, £5 4*s.*; butter, 1lb. a week, £1 19*s.*; tea, 9*d.* a week (no sugar used), £1 19*s.*; flour and wheaten bread, 9*d.* a week, £1 19*s.*; strong beer, 7*d.* a week, £1 10*s.* 4*d.*; ale, 2*d.* a week, 8*s.* 8*d.*; candles, soap, starch, etc., £1 10*s.*; rent, £1 16*s.*; fuel, £3; remains for clothing, etc., £3 10*s.* 4*d.* Total, £36 16*s.* 4*d.*

A mason of 38 has a wife and 5 children, viz., boys of 13, 8, 4, girls of 10 and 2. The man earns 14*s.* in summer, and 12*s.* in winter, besides 4*s.* in summer for extra jobs. His weekly earnings amount to 14*s.*, £36 8*s.*; the wife weaves Kendal cottons or coarse woollen cloth and earns 3*s.* a week for 45 weeks, £6 15*s.*; the eldest boy works with his father, earning 4*s.* a week, £10 8*s.*; the eldest girl knits, earning 1*s.* 3*d.* a week,

£3 5*s.* Total, £56 10*s.* Expenses: 10ost. oatmeal, £11 13*s.* 4*d.*; 18st. wheat flour at 3*s.* the stone, £2 14*s.*; milk, 2*s.* a week, £5 4*s.*; butter, 3lbs. a week at 8*d.*, £5 4*s.*; butcher's meat, £6; fish, 6*s.*; beer, 14 quarts a week at 1*d.*, £3 0*s.* 8*d.*; sugar and tea, 1*s.* 2*d.* a week, £3 0*s.* 8*d.*; potatoes, £2 10*s.*; candles, soap, starch, etc., £2; rent, £2 10*s.*; fuel, £5; remains for clothes and other casual expenses, £7 13*s.* 4*d.* Total, £56 16*s.*

An agricultural labourer of 40, with a wife and 6 children, viz., boys of 15, 11, 9, 1, girls 13, 3. The man earns 11*s.* 6*d.* a week, £29 18*s.*; the eldest girl weaves Kendal cottons and earns 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, £6 10*s.*; the wife spins worsted and earns 1*s.* a week, £2 12*s.* Total, £39. Expenses: 8ost. oatmeal, £9 6*s.* 8*d.*; butcher's meat, £5; potatoes, 12 quarts a week for about 50 weeks, £2 5*s.*; flour, 12st. at 3*s.*, £1 16*s.*; tea (no sugar used), £2; butter, 8olbs. at 9*d.*, £3; milk, £3 10*s.*; beer, £2; candles, soap, starch, etc., £1; house rent, £2 2*s.*; fuel, £4; remains for clothes, etc., £3 0*s.* 4*d.* Total, £39.

A labourer of 29, with a wife of same age and three children of 4, 2 and 1: Man's earnings, £28; the wife earns 9*d.* a week by winding, £1 19*s.* Total, £29 19*s.* Expenses: 75 stone of oatmeal, £8 15*s.*; butcher's meat and flour, 5*s.*; milk, £5; tea and sugar, £1 12*s.*; potatoes, £2 12*s.*; butter, 40lbs. at 9*d.*, £1 10*s.*; treacle, 8*s.*; soap, starch, candles, etc., £1 10*s.*; house rent, £1 15*s.*; fuel, £3 10*s.*; remains for clothing, £3 2*s.* Total, £29 19*s.* The man says he does not spend a shilling in an ale-house in the whole year. Many manufacturers earn considerably more than these weavers, but questions are answered with so much reluctance that the information cannot be depended on. It appears, however, that their extra earnings are generally consumed in the ale-house, and they would often (perhaps more than those who earn less) be thrown on the parish, were it not for the friendly societies.

KIRKBY LONSDALE contains about 750 acres, of which

370 are common. 135 houses pay tax, the number exempt not ascertained. Agricultural labourers receive 1*s.* a day and victuals. Weekly wages in summer are from 10*s.* to 12*s.* without victuals, and in winter 9*s.* Women earn 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day by spinning worsted. The provisions used by the labouring Poor are chiefly milk, oatbread, hasty pudding, onions, potatoes, and now and then a little butcher's meat. The prices in March, 1795, were: Old milk, 1*d.* per qt.; new milk, 2*d.* for 3 pints; potatoes, 4*d.* for six quarts, heaped measure; flour, as at Kendal; mutton, 5*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; beef, 4½*d.* to 5½*d.*; veal, from 4*d.* to 4½*d.* Tithes of corn, lambs, and wool are paid in kind. A small modus taken for hay. A new valuation for the Poor Rate and land tax was made in 1794. The full value of houses and land was obtained, the former reduced one-half, the latter one-fourth. On this rental the assessments for the Poor amounted to 2*s.* 3*d.* in the pound. The land tax, respecting which it is very difficult to obtain information in the North, is collected by the old assessment. It is about 11*d.* in the pound on the new valuation, and probably does not exceed 8*d.* on the fair rental. Of the Poor (mostly agricultural labourers) 28 (of whom 20 have families of 4 persons each) are relieved at home, and several others have occasional relief. A few house rents are paid. 5 bastards are chargeable. Removals seldom occur. Parishes receive paupers when their settlement is indisputable, without an order of removal. A donation of £25 is annually distributed among the Poor who do not receive parochial relief. There are 13 alehouses and 2 friendly societies, with a membership of 350 together. One has a stock of £500, the other £200. Among the rules are the following: 2, Each member upon his admission to the Society shall pay 3*s.* if he has completed his 18th year and have not attained the age of 25; if 25 and not more than 30, 4*s.*, exclusive of 2*d.* to the clerk and 2*d.* to be spent; 3, None shall be

admitted into this society who has not had the small pox, and whose trade or calling is particularly prejudicial to health, or exposed to casualties, such as fire guilders, dead white painters, miners, bailiffs, bailiffs' followers, soldiers, seamen, watchmen or any belonging to the embodied militia, and whosoever after admission engages in any of the above mentioned occupations shall be excluded, except he be impressed or balloted, and then he shall be readmitted at his discharge without fee, if he be sound in body, and in good health, and demand his readmission within three months from his discharge ; 4, No person shall be admitted into this society who shall belong to any other benefit society, nor shall any man be continued a member who shall attempt the subversion of our happy constitution in Church or State ; 5, Each member shall pay or cause to be paid every fourth Monday into the hands of the stewards the sum of 1*s.*, 10*d.* of which shall be put into the box, and 2*d.* shall be spent at the house where the box is kept ; 12, If any member, through sickness or lameness be incapable of following his trade or employment, after he has paid to his society nine months, if he was under the age of twenty-five, when admitted, and twelve months, if above the age of twenty-five, he shall be allowed 1*s.* per day, to be paid weekly out of the box ; but he shall not be free of any ordinary payments during his indisposition ; 14, If any member continue on the box nine months together, and there be no hopes of a speedy recovery, he shall be reduced to 3*s.* 6*d.* per week during his infirmity, and be allowed to do such small matters as he is able (provided it appear by the testimony of his apothecary and neighbours that he is incapable of earning more than one-half of what he earned when in perfect health) until he is capable of following his trade so as to get his living thereby, and to prevent any improper advantage being taken by any ill-disposed member, who may fraudulently declare himself in health before the

expiration of nine months, from a wish to begin his account afresh, and avoid the reductions to 3*s.* 6*d.* per week instead of 7*s.*, it is determined that if a relapse should take place for more than ten days before the expiration of six months from such declaration of health, the time of the second sickness shall be added to the former, as if no intermediate space of time has intervened. The rules also provide for a pension of 4*s.* a week after 60, £3 funeral benefit, and £5 for a member's widow, or if without widow or children and if no will has been made "to his next or most needy relations, which sum shall be paid on the first month-night after such demise, and shall not be liable to any deductions as it is intended for the better support of the widow, children, relations or friends of the deceased"; 31, Each and every member of the society shall on every Tuesday in Whitsun week pay one shilling and fourpence to defray the expense of a feast, which shall on that day be provided for the society at the house where the box is kept. Each member shall attend at the same place at ten o'clock in the morning to go in procession to the church, where a sermon shall be preached adapted for the occasion, and the minister be paid 10*s.* 6*d.* out of the box. Each member within 18 miles of Kirkby Lonsdale is required to appear decent and clean, and not disguised in liquor, or forfeit 6*d.* to the box, and pay the sum of 1*s.* 4*d.* as if present at dinner. Any member living at a greater distance than 18 miles shall forfeit 6*d.* for non-attendance and not be required to pay his 1*s.* 4*d.* The dinner shall be provided at as low a price as is consistent with the interest of the landlord, and the overplus of paying for the dinner shall be had by every particular member, in whatever liquor he prefers.

ORTON is almost 10 miles long by 5 wide. A great part is common. It contains 298 families. 205 houses pay tax, 93 exempt. Farms usually about £20 a year, so that few labourers are employed. In harvest, men

receive 1*s.* and women 10*d.* a day, with diet; threshers in winter are paid 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day with victuals. Hedging in spring or summer is paid 1*s.* a day; masons and joiners get 1*s.* 4*d.* a day with diet; sailors 10*d.* a day. Women are mostly employed in knitting worsted stockings for Kendal manufacturers, by which they earn 4*d.* to 5*d.* a day. The bread commonly used here and in every part of Westmorland is oatcake, baked very thin. Among the labouring classes hasty pudding or boiled milk forms the breakfast and supper; potatoes, butter and bacon, the dinner. The price of provisions is regulated by Kendal market. Turf from the commons is used for fuel. Coal must be brought 30 miles by land carriage. About 2,300 acres of common were enclosed 17 years ago. Rent of land from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 30*s.* per acre. Tithe of wool, lambs, milk, etc., paid in kind. The Poor have generally been farmed for 20 years. One pauper is maintained in the contractor's house, the others are relieved at home. The number on the regular and casual list is 9 single persons and 26 families of 4 persons each. No certificates issued for many years. About 2 removals every three years, one contested in about 7 or 8. 5 ale-houses, no friendly society. The expenses for the Poor were £132 6*s.* in 1791 and 1792, £147 in 1793, and £154 in 1794. 30 years ago the Poor were farmed for £36. The rate is about 9*d.* in the pound on the full rental. In the adjoining chapelry of Kentmere, wholly agricultural, the rates for some years past have been 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the full rental. In 1795, 1*s.* 8*d.*

UNDERBARROW contains 74 families, dispensed in scattered farms and cottages, over 12 square miles. 46 houses pay tax, 28 exempt. The common diet of labourers is milk, butter, oatmeal, potatoes and eggs, sometimes a little flour, and butcher's meat. Tea has found its way into this wild country and is used more or less in every cottage. Prices regulated by Kendal

market, except milk, which is very cheap. 3 quarts old milk cost 1*d.*, 3 pints of new milk the same. Wages in husbandry are 10*d.*, 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.* a day and victuals. Mowing and digging peat, 2*s.* a day without victuals. Women spin worsted and earn 4*d.* to 8*d.* per day. One ale-house, no friendly society, but several persons belong to Kendal societies. Rent of land, 10*s.* to £2 per acre; average about 16*s.* per statute acre. A small modus is paid in lieu of corn and hay; tithe wool, lambs, milk and pigs paid in kind. Land tax about 7¼*d.* in the pound. The Poor have for many years been allowed a maintenance at home. 27 persons, of whom 20 have families, receive weekly relief. The usual allowance to an old pauper is 2*s.* a week. 4 house rents are also paid. The assessments were £62 9*s.* 5*d.* in 1774; £86 5*s.* 7¾*d.*, including £44 2*s.* 6*d.* law charges in a contested removal in 1780; and £145 7*s.* in 1794, equal to 1*s.* 3¾*d.* in the pound on the full rental. Out of this £3 10*s.* for parish expenses other than maintenance of the Poor. No certificate ever granted. About 2 removals in 5 years.

WILTSHIRE

Bradford is said to contain about 20,000 persons. The parish, which is about 25 square miles, contains 6 hamlets as well as the borough. About 350 houses pay tax. Prices of provisions: Beef, 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5½*d.*; veal, 6*d.*; butter, 11½*d.*; bread, 4lbs. for 1*s.*; potatoes, 1*s.* 9*d.* per bush.; wheat, 12*s.* 6*d.*; barley, 4*s.* 6*d.*; oats, 3*s.* 6*d.* Sheermen are paid 17*s.* a week, scribblers 12*s.* to 15*s.*, weavers 10*s.* to 24*s.*, labourers 8*s.* to 9*s.*, and in harvest 16*s.* to 18*s.* a week. 18 ale-houses, and 9 or 10 friendly societies much encouraged by honorary members. It is perhaps partly owing to the thriving state of these societies that the Poor Rates have been reduced. Rent of land near the town £2 to £3 an acre; in the hamlets 18*s.* to

£2. Farms, chiefly in pasture, from £100 to £300. Some tithes taken in kind, but mostly compounded for. Very few acres of common. In 1784 an Act was passed enabling the parish to appoint a general overseer, with a salary of £100. Mr. Rainey, a gentleman of considerable property, has always filled the office, but he accepts only £60 a year. The Poor are relieved at home, or maintained and employed in a Workhouse, which though old has been much improved by him. The apartments are now exceedingly neat and comfortable; the Poor are kept clean and well fed, but are made to work or are punished. If the Out-Poor are idle or get drunk, otherwise misbehave, or refuse to send their children to service at a proper age, they are ordered into the house. Badging the Poor is supposed to have reduced the rates. Mr. Rainey from his knowledge of law often prevents useless litigation, and, being well acquainted with the character and circumstances of every person who applies for relief, can discriminate very fairly between self-created and undeserved poverty.

Course of diet in the Workhouse: Breakfast—every day, onion broth made of water, onions, oatmeal and fat of meat broth; no meat broth used. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, meat and vegetables; other days, bread and cheese. Supper—every day, bread and cheese. 2lbs. of bread are allowed every day to those who work out of the house, and 1½lbs. to those who spin. Children receive a quantity proportionate to their ages. The cheese is not weighed A rate of ¼*d.* in the pound on houses, and ½*d.* on land is levied at 2/3rds of the rack-rent. The number of rates levied since 1775 is as follows: 1775, 140; 1776, 126; 1777, 105; 1778, 120; 1779, 132; 1780, 126; 1781, 132; 1782, 132; 1783, 144; 1784, 156; 1785, 120; 1786, 90; 1787, 80; 1788, 90; 1789, 90; 1790, 72; 1791, 72; 1793, 48; 1794, 72; 1795, 100. The last year's rates are equivalent to 16½*d.* on houses, and

2*s.* 9*d.* on land. The vestry clerk is paid £8. He is also clerk of the turnpikes and teacher of a charity school. His three places produce him £51 10*s.* a year. He has a wife and 5 children, viz., a son 14, and 4 girls of 12, 10, 7, 4½. They earn 5*s.* a week, or £13 a year, so that his annual income is £64 10*s.* He pays in direct taxes £2 17*s.* a year, but no house rent. The remainder of his income is applied to the purchase of food. Bread, he says, costs him 15*s.* a week, or £39 a year, and he finds it very difficult to procure clothes for his family. From this account it is not to be wondered at that a labourer who with 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week endeavours to maintain a large family upon bread, should be often half starved, and half naked. Mr. Rainey is a strenuous advocate for Workhouses, which he considers the best means of keeping down the rates, promoting industry, checking vice and immorality, and punishing the idle Poor.

SEEND is a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Melksham, and contains between 600 and 700 inhabitants. 63 houses pay tax, 150 single and 36 double tenements are exempt There is very little arable land, not more than 150 acres, though the chapelry is 6 miles in circumference. Most of the farms are dairy farms. The principal employment is cloth manufacture. Wages of agricultural labour are 8*s.* on the average. Some men, but very few, are also allowed by their employers to buy butter at 6*d.* per lb. and cheese at 4*d.* In hay harvest men are paid 1*s.* 6*d.* per day, women 8*d.* per day and beer ; at other times 6*d.* Prices of provisions : Butcher's meat, 5*d.* to 7*d.* per lb. ; cheese, from 5*d.* to 6*d.* ; butter, from 10*d.* to 11*d.* ; bread, 4¼lbs. for 1*s.* ; bacon, from 11*d.* to 1*s.* per lb. Farms chiefly leasehold. Rent of arable 25*s.* per acre, pasture £2 to £3. Tithes compounded for at 1*s.* in the pound of the net rental. Waste land not more than 12 acres. One ale-house and one friendly society, not in the most flourishing condition. Its rules have been confirmed. There is

no House of Industry, nor any regular establishment for the employment of the Poor. The most necessitous live in houses belonging to the chapelry. The money raised by Poor Rates in 1795 was £622. Within 30 years a shilling rate producing £100 was sufficient for all parochial charges. As the chapelry consists almost entirely of dairy farms, and afford very little employment in husbandry except in hay harvest, the labouring Poor are dependant on the towns where cloth manufacture is carried on. But since the introduction of machinery, hand spinning has fallen into disuse. The clothier no longer depends on the Poor for the yarn formerly spun at home, since he finds that 50 persons (to speak within compass) can with machinery do as much as 500 without them, and the Poor from the great reduction in the price scarcely have the heart to earn the little that can be made. Whereas formerly they received 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.* a pound for spinning, they are now allowed 5*d.*, so that a woman in good health and no family can only earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, i.e., 1lb. of work a day, the utmost that can be done. If she has a family she cannot earn more than 2*d.* a day or 1*s.* a week, so that their maintenance must chiefly depend on the exertions of the man, whose wages have not increased in proportion. Of this the following is a proof: A labourer earns 8*s.* a week, wife and eldest child, 4*s.* 6*d.*; the parish allows 1*s.* 6*d.* Total, 14*s.* Bread costs for about 8lbs. a day, 11*s.* a week.; butter bought at reduced price, 3lbs. at 6*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*; remains for all other necessaries, 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. The man lives in a house built on the waste. No rent having been demanded for many years, it may be considered freehold. It is very ruinous, but the man cannot afford to repair it himself nor will he ask the parish to do so, fearing they would claim it. Rents are high, £1 10*s.* to £3 a year. Most of the labouring Poor reside in houses belonging to the parish, or have their rent paid for them except in the case of sawyers or weavers

who earn from 17*s.* to £1 1*s.* per week, but even these cannot spare anything for rent if their families are large. Nothing is stated above for fuel. If the labourer is employed in hedging and ditching, he is allowed a faggot a day while it lasts, but this is insufficient. The children therefore are sent into the fields to collect wood where they can and are thus educated in the art of thieving. The bread mentioned is charged at the price provided at the beginning of March, 1796. It fell in April from 13*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* a bushel.

Earnings and expenses of a widow and her family of 8, viz., 5 boys of 18, 17, 13½, 12 and 2½, 3 girls of 16, 9 and 6½: The eldest, a bricklayer, earning 1*s.* 8*d.* a day, maintains himself and pays 6*d.* a week for washing and mending his clothes. The second is settled at some distance from home. The third earns 3*s.* when employed, but is not always certain of work. The fourth boy earns 2*s.* a week. The woman and 2 eldest girls earn 4*s.* a week by spinning, but this work cannot always be procured. The parish allows 5*s.* Total, 14*s.* 6*d.* Expenses: Barley flour, 8*s.* 3*d.*; yeast, 2*d.*; salt, 3*d.*; tea, 2oz., 6*d.*; butter, 2lb. 1*s.* 8*d.*; cheese, 7½*d.*; soap and blue, 4¼*d.*; candles, 7*d.*; thread and worsted, 3*d.*; coals, 1*s.*; garden stuff, chiefly potatoes, 9*d.* Total, 14*s.* 4¾*d.* During the summer of 1795, when the family did not bake bread at home, they spent 13*s.* or 14*s.* a week in bread. Even if wheat was only 5*s.* the bushel, their income would not provide them with any clothes. Their rent of £2 a year is paid by the parish. The mother is a decent frugal and industrious woman. These two families are a fair specimen of the general mode of living among the labouring people in this county, except that when the husband is dissolute, or the wife idle, the distress is infinitely greater. In general those families in which there are 3 or 4 small children incapable of earning anything, are put to the greatest shifts for a main-

tenance. Even single women often cannot subsist without great difficulty. There are two sisters (spinsters) who live on 3*s.* 6*d.* a week, 1*s.* 6*d.* of which is allowed by the parish to one that is confined to her bed the greatest part of the year. The other sister, though in good health, being obliged to devote much of her time to her sister, cannot earn more than 2*s.* a week by spinning. From the whole of their receipts 6*d.* a week is paid for lodging.

In some of the neighbouring corn parishes the reduction in the price of spinning has been more severely felt than at Seend. In one instance, however, the Poor have been better off. They were allowed wheat by their employers at the reduced price of 8*s.* the bushel during the late dear season, and in the wheat harvest their earnings are such that with economy they may lay by a little for clothes, rent and other necessaries for the winter.

TROWBRIDGE contains 1,833 acres 24 perches, and about 7,000 inhabitants, principally manufacturers of superfine broad cloth and kerseymere. About 204 houses pay tax, number exempt supposed to be between 400 and 500. Prices of provisions: Beef, 4*d.* to 4½*d.*; mutton and lamb, 5*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb.; pork, 5½*d.*; butter, 11½*d.*; bread, 4lbs. 6oz. for 1*s.*; milk, 2*d.* per quart; potatoes, 6*d.* per peck. Sheermen are said to earn 14*s.* a week; scribblers and weavers, 10*s.* 6*d.* and sometimes considerably more; women dressing cloth about 5*s.* a week; children, 5 to 9, about 1*s.* 6*d.*; day labourers, 8*s.* to 9*s.* There are 20 alehouses, a few years back many more. 5 male and 3 female friendly societies contain on an average about 80 members each. None have taken the benefit of the late Act. No honorary members. Rent is from 40*s.* to 50*s.* an acre. Farms mostly small. The land principally employed in grazing. Tithes taken by composition. About 30 acres of common. The Poor are maintained by a parish allowance at their own

homes. There is no regular workhouse. About 232 regular pensioners, mostly with families, receive monthly £88 7*s*. The casual Poor received in September, 1795, £41 7*s*. 6½*d*. A great number of soldiers and militia men's families are chargeable. No satisfactory account could be obtained of what the rates were in the pound, but they are lower than they were 20 years ago. This is attributed to the introduction of machines, by which better wages are earned, and to the parish not obliging their Poor to go into a Workhouse. It is singular that at Trowbridge and Frome opinions on this subject are diametrically opposite. Houses let very high here, and buildings increase every year. The machines have been introduced chiefly in the last 6 or 7 years, and as the people are much averse to them they are brought into use by degrees. As the manufacturers mostly work by the piece, it is difficult to get a true knowledge of their earnings. They are seldom willing to own what they really amount to. It is improbable, however, that they differ much from those earned at Frome.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Evesham contains 3 parishes. In one the money expended on the Poor in 1795, when the price of every article of life was nearly doubled, was £373 14*s*. 5*d*., and in 1791 £365 15*s*. 8*d*. This remarkable fact can be accounted for by the voluntary subscription of nearly £200 for the relief of the Poor in 1795. The greatest sum paid to any family has been 8*s*. 6*d*. a week to a man with 6 children. The rate is 4½*d*. in the pound on land, and 3*d*. on houses. Price of provisions somewhat higher than at Inkborough. The earnings of a common labourer are on an average 1*s*. 4*d*. a day.

Inkborough is about 12 miles in circumference and contains over 300 families ; 72 houses pay window tax, 3 house tax, and 190 exempt. Agricultural labourers

receive from 6*s.* to 7*s.* a week, with diet, or 9*s.* to provide themselves. A yearly labourer, living and lodging in the house of his employer, is paid from £8 to £12 a year; a boy from £4 to £6 a year; harvest wages are usually £1 18*s.* 0*d.*, to £2 2*s.* 0*d.* a month, or a certain sum for the whole harvest whether long or short, generally two to three guineas, and appears to be chiefly regulated by the appearance of the weather. During hay and corn harvests labourers are invariably fed in their masters' homes. Females are employed in spinning and weaving. By the former an industrious woman will earn 4*d.* to 9*d.* a day; by the latter 6*s.* to 8*s.* a week. Where the man and his wife both weave, it frequently happens that the man finding a resource in the industry of his partner, spends the produce of his own labour at the ale-house, and returns to his family to devour the food of his children. The following have been the price of provisions within the last three years:—

	1793.	1795.
Beef	3*d.* to 4*d.* per lb.	3½*d.* to 5*d.*
Veal	2½*d.* to 4*d.* ,,	3*d.* to 6*d.*
Mutton	5*d.* to 4*d.* ,,	4*d.* to 5*d.*
Pork	3½*d.* to 5*d.* ,,	4½*d.* to 6*d.*
Butter	7*d.* to 9*d.* ,,	10*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*
Wheat	6*s.* to 9*s.* per bushel	9*s.* to 13*s.*
Barley	3*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* ,,	4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*
Rye	5*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* ,,	6*s.* to 8*s.*
Malt	3*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* ,,	5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*
Oats	2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* ,,	3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*
Beans	4*s.* to 6*s.* ,,	6*s.* to 7*s.*

Coals are delivered at 11*d.* to 15*d.* per cwt., and yet wood is the usual fuel, though coal at 1*s.* per cwt. is much cheaper. It is probable that the labourers' children procure their fuel from the hedges. Farms are small, from 80 to 300 acres. Nearly one-half of the parish is in open field, and the system of cultivation has not varied within the memory of any man now living. About 200 acres of waste which give excellent pasture for sheep. Tithes taken by composition in unenclosed parishes. In those enclosed within the last 14 years land has been given in lieu of tithes. The income of

clergymen is in general very inadequate to enable them to live with hospitality or even with decency. Rent of land 15*s.* to 25*s.* an acre. In the vale of Evesham, from which the inhabitants of Birmingham are almost wholly supplied with vegetables, £2 to £4 an acre. There are three public houses, 4 were suppressed a few years ago. There is one Friendly Society in a very flourishing state. Before 1787 the Poor were relieved at their own houses, some families receiving 8*s.* a week and house rent and fuel. Others 2*s.* to 7*s.* a week. In that year the rate was 4*s.* in the pound, and a Poor-house was thought of. An inhabitant undertook to farm the Poor for £340 a year, and as the out-payments had been £560 11*s.* 8*d.* immediate relief was experienced. During these three years the Poor were well treated, but many poor families who had received large sums weekly, rather than be removed to the Workhouse, supported themselves. In 1790 an offer was made to farm the Poor for £250, treating them exactly as in the three former years. This was accepted, and performed to the satisfaction of both parties. The rates were then 2*s.* 8*d.* in the pound. In 1793, owing to the advance in prices, the contractor required £390, and in the winter of 1794-5 £30 was added. From 1787 to 1790 the Poor in the house were 35; from 1790 to 1793, 45; and from 1793 to 1795, 40. The inmates have no fixed diet, but they have meat dinners four days a week, and beer not weaker than 3 bushels to the hogshead. There are several benefactions by which the industrious Poor who have no parish relief are assisted Workhouses are not generally adopted in this neighbourhood, but relief is given at the caprice of the parish officers. As no disgrace is now attached to the receipt of "parish money," their demands are not regulated by their necessities but their indolence. Any refusal is followed by an appeal to the magistrates who generally (and perhaps properly) lean to the side of the complainant, and should the demand be dismissed it is attended with considerable expense,

for parish officers are not economical travellers. There are, however, some Poor who, though they would willingly receive an unjust allowance at home, scorn the relief of a Workhouse, and to avoid it exert the industry and ability which idleness had hitherto concealed.

WORCESTER has five parishes. Before 1792 the Poor were relieved at separate Workhouses in each parish or at home. The cost was £1,525, and the number of inmates 96. Between 2 and 3 hundred persons received out-relief. The parishes were incorporated by 32 Geo. 3. c. 99, and the new Workhouse opened in 1794. In the following year the number of inmates was 221, as well as several Out-Poor and children at nurse. The charges were £1,677 10*s.* 0*d.*, which includes the interest on the loan for buying the land and building the house, as well as the salaries of the persons employed, which together cannot be less than £500 a year. Had the price of provisions and the number of the Poor remained what they were when the house was opened the rates would have been reduced a third. The increased comforts of the Poor are evident to every visitor. They have excellent dinners, chiefly of animal food and good malt liquor.

YORKSHIRE

BRADFORD contains 1,000 acres and about 5,000 inhabitants. 470 houses pay tax; number exempt not ascertainable. Prices of provisions: Oatmeal, 2*s.* 8*d.*; flour, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; potatoes, 8*d.* to 9*d.*, all at the stone of 16lbs.; butter, 11½*d.* per lb. of 18oz.; beef, 4*d.* to 8*d.*; mutton, 5½*d.*; veal, 5*d.*; bacon, 7*d.* to 8*d.*; pork, 6*d.*, all per lb. of 16oz.; new milk, 2*d.* per quart. Ordinary labourers get 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a day, with 2 pints of beer; tailors, 10*d.* to 1*s.*, with victuals; carpenters, masons and joiners, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* with victuals; weavers, 7*s.* to 11*s.* a week; woolcombers, 11*s.* to 12*s.* a week. There are 13 Friendly Societies, with a membership of 120

or 130 each. Tithes compounded for. The Poor are maintained in a Workhouse, in a convenient, airy situation at a little distance from the town. There are 74 inmates, mostly women, old men and children. There are a great number of out-pensioners, but no information respecting them or other parish concerns could be obtained.

BURTON contains about 1,300 statute acres, 51 houses pay tax (17 having above 6 windows) and about 50 are exempt. Oatmeal boiled with milk into a sort of hasty pudding forms a great part of the food of the labouring classes, but soured or leavened bread is much used. Wheaten bread is used by those who can afford it. Oatmeal costs 1*s.* 11*d.* per stone; best flour, 2*s.* 8½*d.* for 14lbs.; old milk, ½*d.* per quart; new milk, ½*d.* per pint; potatoes, 6 quarts for 4*d.* In the earthenware potteries men earn 2*s.* to 12*s.* a week, according to their age and abilities. Common labourers earn 8*s.* to 10*s.* without diet. Much worsted is spun by women, who seldom earn more than 4*d.* a day. There are 7 ale-houses and one friendly society, with about 100 members. Rent of land is from 6*s.* to 60*s.*, average about 13*s.* Land tax about 4¼*d.* in the pound. Of the Poor, some have an allowance at home, others are provided with dwellings by the parish. The regular weekly pensioners are 16, most of whom have families. 9 persons receive casual relief. The rate for 1794 was 1*s.* 10½*d.* in the pound on the net rent. Certificates seldom granted. Only about 2 or 3 removals in 20 years.

ECCLESFIELD contains nearly 12,000 acres. 328 houses pay tax, number exempt probably more considerable, but not ascertained, as the population is very scattered. Nail and file making are the principal manufactures. In the former a man earns from 6*s.* to 12*s.* a week, in the latter about 10*s.* 6*d.* Work is usually paid by the piece. Agricultural labourers get 1*s* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a day. Women by spinning earn from

3*d*. to 5*d*. a day. Prices of provisions: Oatmeal, 2*s*. 6*d*.; flour, 2*s*. 5*d*. to 2*s*. 8*d*., both by the stone of 14lbs.; butter, 10*d*. to 10½*d*.; beef, 3½*d*. to 7*d*; mutton, 5*d*. to 5½*d*.; veal, 4*d*. to 5*d*.; pork, 5*d*. to 5½*d*.; bacon, 8*d*., all by the lb. of 16oz.; old milk, ½*d*. a quart; no new milk sold; potatoes, 10*d*. to 1*s*. 3*d*. the Winchester peck; wheat, 8*s*. 6*d*. to 9*s*. the Winchester bushel; oats, 25*s*. the quarter; barley, 40*s*. to 45*s*.; malt, 54*s*. to 56*s*.; eggs, 5 for 2*d*. Oatmeal very generally used. They eat water pottage twice and sometimes three times a day. It is made with boiling water, oatmeal and onions to which a little butter is added, but the proportion of oatmeal and butter have been much reduced since the rise in prices. It is not uncommon for the Poor to dine partly on nettles which they boil and season with a little salt and pepper. Of the Poor, 64 are maintained in a Workhouse. 96 have regular weekly pensions and 38 have occasional relief. About half the Out-Poor have families. The Poor are farmed. The contractor received £760 in 1794, and £860 in 1795. The Workhouse stands in a good situation, and the lodging rooms are tolerably comfortable, but not sufficiently sub-divided. There are 5 or 6 beds in each room, and 2 or 3 sleep in a bed, which are filled with chaff, and have each 2 sheets, 1 blanket and 1 rug. Pillows are stuffed with chaff. Very little work is done, as the Poor are mostly old people and children.

Bill of fare: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage and bread. Dinner—Sunday, Wednesday, butcher's meat, potatoes, broth and bread; Monday, Thursday, bread and 2oz. butter; other days, puddings with sauce and beer. Supper—Sunday, Wednesday, broth and bread; other days, milk pottage and bread. Oatbread is generally used, sometimes wheaten bread. One certificate and one removal in a year. A contest not oftener than once in 5 or 6 years. Rent of land from 10*s*. to 40*s*., average about 21*s*. The estates of the Duke of Norfolk are much underlet, not above 15*s*.

or 16*s.* an acre. Land tax about 3¾*d.* on net rental. Four friendly societies; one established many years has 200 members. The others are new and have few members. There are two charities for poor widows, who receive an apartment and £4 to £5 a year. There is a free school for 28 boys, and £39 are distributed among the Poor who do not receive parish relief. In the winter of 1794-5 the principal inhabitants supplied the necessitous with coals and subscribed £160, which was spent in meal and other necessaries. The rates are 1*s.* 3*d.* in the pound on the net rental.

Great Driffield contains a little over 4,977 acres, and about 1,600 inhabitants. 160 houses pay tax, about 50 small cottages have never been assessed. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 6*d.* per lb.; pork, 8*d.*; veal, 7*d.*; lamb, 8*d.*; vegetables plentiful and cheap; wheat, £3 10*s.* a quarter; barley, £1 8*s.*; oats, 16*s.* to 17*s.* These three articles have lately been used for bread. Prices of labour very fluctuating. A good labourer earned in 1795 £18, in 1796 wages have been much advanced. The usual diet of labourers is barley bread, potatoes and perhaps 2lbs. of butcher's meat once a week, when they can afford it. There are 12 ale-houses and one friendly society, whose funds are flourishing. Rent of land about 10*s.* to 12*s.* an acre. When the parish was enclosed in 1742 a fixed money payment was settled for great tithes; small tithes are still taken in kind. There are only 3 inmates in the Poor-house, many receive relief at home, which appears to be more convenient for them and not disadvantageous to the parish.

Halifax contains about 1,120 acres. About 1792 the population was estimated at 1,800 families. Owing to the drain of men due to the war, it was supposed to have fallen to 1,700 in 1795. 550 houses pay tax. There are 76 ale-houses. Prices of provisions: oatmeal, 2*s.* 8*d.* per stone of 16lbs.; flour, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per stone; potatoes, 8*d.* to 9*d.* per stone; butter, 11½*d.*

per 18oz.; beef, 4*d.* to 8*d.* per 16ozs.; mutton, 5½*d.*; veal, 5*d.*; bacon, 7*d.* to 8*d.*; pork, 6*d.*; Butcher's meat is very generally used by labourers. Their wives and children drink tea twice a day. Agricultural labourers receive 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a day, with two pints of beer but no victuals. It is a very general practice to allow drink both in the fore and the afternoon to labourers of every description, and it would be difficult to eradicate a custom so deeply rooted. Weavers get from 7*s.* to 11*s.* a week; woolcombers, 9*s.* to 12*s*; masons, carpenters and joiners, from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; tailors, 10*d.* to 13*d.* a day with victuals, ploughmen by the year, £12 with diet, lodging and washing. The war has affected the manufacturers of this place and reduced the price of labour, especially weaving and spinning. Many poor women who earned a bare subsistence by spinning are in a very wretched condition. Rent of land is from £3 to £5 an acre. Farms are mostly small and rented by manufacturers who keep a cow or two for the use of their families. A modus of £3 a year is paid in lieu of all tithes. 89 paupers are in the Workhouse, an old, small, inconvenient building. 42 are under 12, 20 under 6, and one-third of the whole number are lunatic. The women and children spin worsted. Some of the men are employed in the town. The earnings are from £1 15*s.* to £2 a week. Those who work out of doors, in the kitchen or other house business, are allowed butchers' meat for dinner every day in the week, others have meat dinners on Sundays and Thursdays; children have pudding instead of boiled meat. The dinners on other days are potatoes, butter and milk or beer with a slice of bread, or broth and cold meat with bread and beer. Breakfast is usually hasty pudding, boiled milk and bread, or broth and bread. Working people receive a pint of beer each at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Those who have been used to tobacco have ½lb. a month; snuff takers, ½lb. a month. Women are allowed to spin to purchase

tea. 260 Out-Poor, of whom 180 have families, receive weekly pensions. No certificates granted now, and only 3 in the last 18 years. Removals are rare. The overseer, who has held office for more than 18 years, has formed a society of the officers of all adjoining parishes and townships, who have agreed that all disputes should be referred to them collectively and settled by the majority. The rates in 1794 were 3*s.* in the pound on the rack or net rental; for 20 years before they had varied from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.* About £81 derived from other sources are used yearly for the relief of the Poor. The town clerk, who is master of the Workhouse and standing overseer, has a salary of £65 15*s.* a year. There are 10 friendly societies with a total membership of 1,000, half from the neighbouring townships. Four male clubs only admit members of the same trade. The members of the Master Workmen's Society pay 1*s.* a month and 7*s.* 8*d.* on admission if under 30, or 8*d.* more for every year above that age. The benefits are 8*s.* a week for sickness for one year, if of 18 months standing, and 4*s.* a week afterwards; £5 burial benefit. If the stock exceeds £100 the surplus is divided among the free members at the feast.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL (area about 73 acres) with the adjoining townships (area about 12,000 acres) was separated from Yorkshire and made a county by 25 Henry VI The population of Hull (and Sculcoats) was ascertained in 1792 to be 22,286. 1716 houses in Hull (without Sculcoats) of which 109 are double tenements, pay tax; number exempt unknown. Both corn and butchers' meat are higher than at the same season for the last 20 years. Middling wheat is from 75*s.* to 81*s.* a quarter.; beef, 4*d.* to 7*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.* to 6*d.* Wages are so various that it is difficult to estimate them with accuracy. Agricultural wages are from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* a day, the latter being the commoner. Before 1795 they were 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* At task work a man will earn 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day. Women's

wages from 6*d*. to 8*d*. a day. Wages in harvest are higher. The yearly income of an industrious labourer is about £40 a year, exclusive of the earnings of his wife and children. Most of the land near Hull is under grass. Rent of land near the town is £4 to £5 an acre. Four or five miles off it is 30*s*. There are few large farms and very few commons near Hull.

In 1698 an Act was passed for erecting Workhouses and Houses of Correction in Hull, to be managed by a corporation called the Governor, Deputy-Governor, Assistants and Guardians of the Poor. A house called the Charity Hall was built for the maintenance of the Poor, capable of holding 170 or 180 persons; but after this good beginning, part only of the Act was put in execution. The building proved almost useless and the whole management detrimental to the Poor. So that the house for many years was no better than a charity school for children, while the rest of the Poor remained on weekly pensions. For as the Act allowed no more money to be raised when the Poor increased, none could receive any pension but upon the death of some other, whence it followed that those who had the best friends got on the list, while others were forced to beg. In 1727, however, the whole Act was adopted, the house furnished and weekly payments abolished, with the result that 101 persons came into the house. At later dates further Acts were passed and in the winter of 1795-6 345 persons were maintained there, besides 900 families, containing about 2,600 who received out-relief. The management of the internal concerns of this house cannot be spoken of in too high terms. Mr. Howard confessed that the neatness and cleanliness of the Poor-house were a credit to the town. All the rooms are washed, and the bed clothes well aired once a week. The beds are all taken down once a year.

Table of Diet: Breakfast—every day, adults, milk and oatmeal, 7oz. of bread; children, the same but 5oz. bread. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday, adults, 8oz.

meat clear of bone, 7oz bread and potatoes; children, 4oz. meat, 5oz. bread and potatoes; Monday, pease soup; Tuesday, Friday, adults, 11oz. flour, made into cakes or dumplins; children, 8oz. flour made accordingly; Wednesday, hasty pudding, 2oz. treacle or 1oz. butter; Saturday, milk and oatmeal, barley made into frumenty. Supper—Sunday, Thursday, adults, broth, 7oz. bread; children, broth and 5oz.; Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, adults, cheese, 4oz., bread 7oz.; children, bread and milk; Tuesday, Friday, milk and oatmeal with 7oz. bread for adults and 5oz. for children. The children in the house spin jersey and earn about £110 a year. The old teaze rope into oakum, and earn about £30. Other persons who have been brought up to handicraft trades are employed in repairs in the house. The women knit all the hosiery and keep the house clean. The children are instructed in reading and writing. The rates, which were £416 in 1728, were £5,616 in 1796, and were always highest in periods of war, owing to the great number of the inhabitants entering the service, and their families, not being sufficiently provided for, are obliged to apply to the parish for relief. There are 51 friendly societies in Hull, of which 24 have had their rules confirmed. The membership ranges from 24 to 212. The usual diet of labourers in Hull and its neighbourhood is wheaten bread (but since the great advance in the price of wheat, their bread has been made of two-thirds wheat and one-third rye, which is about half the price of wheaten bread), the cheapest sort of butchers' meat, potatoes and fish. The latter may frequently be bought on moderate terms.

Leeds contains about 4,000 acres, of which 30 are waste, and about 31,500 inhabitants. In 1775 the population was 17,117. 1,836 houses pay tax, 4,855 are exempt. Rent of land is high, £2 to £5 an acre. Land in the skirts of the town frequently sells for £300 an acre, and some times for £1,000. Prices of provisions;

Oatmeal, 2*s.* 3*d.* per stone of 14lbs.; flour, 2*s.* 3½*d.* to 2*s.* 5½*d.* per stone; beef, 3½*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb.; mutton and veal, 4½*d.*; pork, 4*d.*; bacon, 7*d.*; milk, 2*d.* per quart; butter, 11*d.* for 16oz.; potatoes, 11*d.* per peck, Winchester measure. Wheaten bread is generally used. Some is made partly of rye and a few persons use oatmeal. Animal food forms a considerable part of the diet of labouring people. Tea is now the ordinary breakfast, especially among women of every description, and the food of both men and women is more expensive than that consumed by persons in the same station of life in the more northern parts. Many persons complain that the introduction of machinery for spinning and carding wool not only deprive the industrious Poor of employment, but are a great national disadvantage. But the high price of land and water, the many new streets in the town, and the manufactories and villas in the neighbourhood are a very convincing proof of the prosperity of Leeds. Weavers earn from 12*s.* to 18*s.* a week; scribblers, dressers of cloth, etc., from 12*s.* to £1 1*s.* Work is generally performed by the piece, by which men earn more than by the day. Yet with some exceptions earnings are seldom applied beyond the immediate wants of a workman and his family, so that it would seem that high wages are generally the forerunners of poverty. Bricklayers and masons earn from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day, their assistants 2*s.* a day, joiners 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and ordinary labourers from 9*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.* a week. There are 154 inmates in the Workhouse, of whom 42 are old and infirm men or lunatics, 56 women, many of them soldiers' wives, and 56 children mostly under 12. There are a few cripples or idiots between 12 and 20. Children are generally bound apprentices at 9 or 10. The Workhouse is an old building, in the town, with accommodation for 200 persons. There are about 20 beds in each room, chiefly of flocks and provided each with 2 blankets and a rug. Some beds have sheets. The dormitories

and other apartments are kept with great neatness, and the Poor are well dressed, clean and orderly. The house is whitewashed and the bedclothes scoured once a year.

Table of diet: Breakfast—every day, milk pottage and bread. Dinner—Sunday, mutton, potatoes, broth, bread and beer; Monday, Friday, rice milk, bread and beer; Tuesday, flour dumplins and beer; Wednesday, bread, cheese and beer; Thursday, beer, potatoes, broth, bread and beer (*sic*); Friday, rice milk, bread and beer; Saturday, drink pottage and bread. Supper —Sunday, bread and broth; Thursday, bread and broth or beer only; other days, milk pottage and bread. Of wheaten cake 3lbs. are divided into 8 parts, viz., 2 parts of 7oz. each for 2 men, 4 of 6oz. for 6 women, and 2 of 5oz. for 2 children. 1lb. of rice, with 10oz. of sugar, with cloves, pepper, salt, etc., are allowed to 20 persons. Each adult has 14oz. and each child 8oz. of paste for dumplins. 20 persons have 1 gallon of milk for milk pottage, and each person has one-third of a quart (ale measure) of beer at dinner except on Saturdays. Adults have 6oz. of cheese each, children 4oz. The cheese is worth about $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. At Easter and Whitsuntide veal and bacon are provided for dinner and roast beef at Christmas, and at each of these seasons each pauper receives 1lb. of spiced cake. The prime meat is purchased for the house; every person finds his own knife and fork, and is served with dinner in the dining room. In general, the stores when delivered are carried up to the lodging rooms. No. 24, however, of the rules observed in the Workhouse, adopted on May 9th, 1771, requires "that all the Poor in this house who are able to attend prayers, sit decently at their meals, avoid talking and make no attempt to go out of the dining-room till thanks are returned; and, in default of any of these particulars, to lose their next meal"; and No. 29 provides for the punishment of any person carrying any bread, cheese, or other

provisions (without leave from the master) out of the common dining-room. It is but justice to add that Mr. Linsley, the master of the Workhouse, is in every respect highly qualified for the very arduous and complicated duties of his important office, in the discharge of which he has happily been able to render those under him contented, without permitting them to be idle, and to provide for their wants without losing sight of economy. His humane disposition, and firm, even temper, make him beloved, respected and obeyed with cheerfulness, and (what is seldom to be met with in houses of this description) the Poor under his care live in perfect harmony among themselves. Their earnings amount to about £150 a year, exclusive of work performed for the immediate use of the house. The following other persons also receive relief, viz.: Regular Out-Poor, 415; casual Out-Poor, 251; militia men's families, 158. Certificates are never granted.

MARKET WEIGHTON contains 230 families of a little over 4 persons each. There are 10 ale-houses and one friendly society with about 120 members. Their rules have been confirmed. Prices of provisions are: Beef, mutton, and lamb, 6*d.* per lb.; veal, 4½*d.* and 5*d.* Little or no pork used. Price of common labour, till about July, 1795, was 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in winter without meat, and in summer from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* In March, 1796, it rose to 2*s.* 3*d.* and afterwards to 2*s.* 6*d.* In hay time and harvest wages are higher. For burning sods on land which has been pared women charge 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. In 1772 when the open fields were enclosed, land was given in lieu of tithes. A Workhouse was built about 1784, in which the Poor were maintained at a certain rate per head till 1795. At first 1*s.* 6*d.* per head was paid, afterwards 2*s.* a week, and later 2*s.* 6*d.* Very few paupers have ever been in the house, as they could be maintained at a cheaper rate on weekly pensions.

SETTLE contains about 3,200 acres, of which ⅓ is

mountainous, and 214 families. 99 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. There are 9 alehouses and 2 friendly societies, containing altogether about 200 members. The food used by the labouring Poor is oatmeal, tea, milk, butter, potatoes and butchers' meat. Prices are: 20lbs. of oatmeal, 3*s.*; old milk, ½*d.* per pint, small measure; beef, 4*d.* per lb.; mutton, 5*d.* Labourers' wages are 2*s.* a day in summer, and 1*s.* 4*d.* in winter without victuals. Children from 8 to 14 earn in the cotton works 1*s.* to 6*s.* a week. Rent of land, which is very rich, varies from 5*s.* to £3 an acre; average about 18*s.* Land tax about 4½*d.* in the pound. The Poor receive an allowance at home, and most have their house rents paid and clothes provided for them. There are 12 other families in distant parts of the county to whom relief is sent. Many others have their house rents paid, or receive occasional assistance. The rates have fallen in recent years, due it is said to the introduction of the cotton manufacture, which has raised the demand for labour and afforded full employment to the wives and children of the industrious Poor.

SHEFFIELD contains about 600 acres, 6,000 houses, and probably nearly 7,000 families, with 35,000 inhabitants. 2,365 houses pay tax, about 3,635 exempt. The rates are 5*s.* in the pound on the nominal and 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the net rental. There are 148 persons (mostly old and infirm, lunatics, soldiers' wives, or young children) in the Workhouse. Some are employed in spinning for the use of the house. Men who are able to work are sent to various employments in the town. Their earnings are about £170 a year. The Workhouse is situated in an airy part of the town. The staircases are narrow and steep; the lodging rooms about 9ft. 6in. square with two beds in each, except one which is rather larger and contains 6 beds. Beds and pillows are filled with chaff. Each has 2 coarse sheets, a coverlet and a blanket of the woollen manufacture

of the house. The number of beds is 43. Two, three, and sometimes even four paupers sleep in a bed.

Bill of fare: Breakfast—every day, water pottage, gravy (forming a sort of soup) and bread. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, beef, bread, broth and potatoes, or cabbage and beer; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, puddings and sauce, and beer; Saturday, cheese, bread and beer. Supper—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, broth and bread; Monday, Wednesday. Friday, bread and beer; Saturday, milk pottage and bread. In summer milk pottage is occasionally served for breakfast and supper. The Poor are allowed to carry their breakfasts and suppers into their lodging rooms, but must eat their dinners in the hall, and leave on the table what they cannot consume. 3oz. of cheese are allowed on cheese days to grown persons. The dinners at Easter and Whitsuntide are veal, bacon, and plum pudding. The old people dine first; what they leave forms part of the dinner of the children. The food is plentiful and good. There are 972 out-pensioners, many of whom have families. The usual allowance to a pauper with one child is 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. There are several public charities in Sheffield, including two schools. In the winter of 1794-5 a subscription was opened for the relief of the Poor and £1,000 subscribed, with which flour was bought and retailed at reduced prices. The Duke of Norfolk likewise distributed £100 in coals. Prices of provisions are: Flour, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.* the stone; meal, 1*s.* 6*d.* for 8lbs.; butter, 10*d.* to 1*s.* for 16oz.; potatoes, 10*d.* per peck, Winchester measure; eggs, 2 for 1*d.*; new milk, 1¾*d.* per quart; beef and mutton, 5*d.* per lb.; veal, 4½*d.*; pork, 5*d.*; bacon, 8½*d.*; coals, 5*d.* per cwt. Wheaten bread is universally used here. Malt liquor and butchers' meat form part of the diet of all ranks. The tradesman, artisan and labourer all live well, and in general industry is a more prominent feature in their conduct than economy. Almost every manu-

facturer, however, is a member of a friendly society. In 1786 there were 52, and they paid to sick members £3,670 15*s.* 8*d.* In 1787 there were 55, and they paid £3,519 10*s.* 8*d.* Since then no accounts have been published. None of the societies have had their rules confirmed from a fear that the Government were actuated by very different motives from what the Act professes. Wages of labourers are 2*s.* a day, with one pint of ale, and half a quartern loaf ; masons, 2*s.* 8*d.* a day ; assistants, 2*s.* In the cutlery trade men earn 10*s.* to 30*s.* a week. Women follow various employments. Those who spin lint earn 6*d.* a day ; washerwomen, 1*s.* a day and victuals. The demand for labour has decreased since the war began, but as many men have joined the army and navy, those who are able and willing to work may earn a good livelihood. The late rapid rise of the rates has been ascribed to the war, which has thrown many families on the parish, to the stagnation of trade, to the high price of provisions, and by some to the introduction of machinery. In the opinion of such persons it is a national misfortune that a wool spinner can by means of machines do ten times the work he could do without them. About 20 removals occur in a year ; one or two usually contested. Certificates very rarely granted. Land tax about 2*d.* in the pound on the net rental. Farming land lets from £2 to £4 an acre There were 395 ale-houses in 1791.

Skipton contains 4,000 acres, of which 1,300 are mountainous and of little value. The population in 1794 was 2,096 inhabitants in 464 families. 121 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. There are 19 ale-houses. Prices of provisions are : Oatmeal, 2*s.* 2*d.* per stone of 14lbs. ; flour, 2*s.* 8*d.* per 16 lbs. ; butter, 1*s.* 1*d.* per 22oz. ; potatoes, 1*s.* 4*d.* for 16 quarts ; beef, 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb. ; mutton, 5*d.* ; veal, 4*d.* ; bacon, 7*d.* ; old milk, ½*d.* per quart ; new milk, 1*d.* Oatmeal is made into bread, and sometimes into hasty pudding ;

but in general, tea, sugar, wheaten bread and butter have been substituted. Agricultural labourers get 2*s.* a day in summer and 1*s.* 4*d.* in winter without victuals. They work from 6 to 6 when daylight permits, with half-an-hour for breakfast, and one hour for dinner. Workmen in the limestone quarries get 2*s.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* in summer without victuals and 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* in winter without victuals. Women in the cotton mills till lately earned 4*s.* to 5*s.* a week, but now (April, 1795) 3*s.* 6*d.* Those who spin worsted earn 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day. Since 1792 wages have fallen one-third. There are 3 friendly societies. Rent near the town is about £3 an acre; at a distance, 18*s.* Land tax about 8*d.* in the pound. Farms generally small. Of the Poor, 8 are maintained in a Workhouse under the charge of a matron. No regular course of diet is observed. There are 94 out-pensioners of whom 14 belong to other parishes. The remaining 80, mostly old and infirm, cost the township 82*s.* a week, exclusive of house rents. In 1794 £78 6*s.* 2*d.* were paid for house rents. A contested removal in 1794 cost £30. About £100 from the rent of land belonging to the township is applied yearly to the relief of the Poor. The assessments were raised at about 2*s.* in the pound on the net rental. Certificates are never granted.

SOUTHOWRAM is in the parish of Halifax and contains 3,840 acres and 640 families. 133 houses pay tax. No home under £4 is assessed, so that the number exempt is 430. Prices of labour and provisions as in Halifax. Rent of land is 10*s.* to £1 an acre; average 15*s.* 6*d.* A modus is paid in lieu of tithes. Land tax is 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound. 34 paupers, chiefly old people and children, are in the house. They appear to be comfortable and well fed. Hasty pudding and boiled milk are provided for breakfast and supper. Dinner on Sunday and Thursday consists of butchers' meat. No regular course is observed on other days, but potatoes butter, milk and oatbread form the chief part of their

food. A pint of beer is allowed in the forenoon and afternoon to those who work. The Poor spin worsted. Children begin at 7 or 8; at 9 they are bound apprentices The earnings are from £1 13*s.* to £2 7*s.* a month. There are 89 out-pensioners, most of whom have families. About 20 receive casual relief. Rates have been somewhat reduced in the last 20 years. There are about 4 removals a year. One recently settled cost the township £73 18*s.* 2*d.* for the attorney's bill alone.

POCKLINGTON contains 2,600 acres and 305 families with 1,500 inhabitants. 150 houses pay tax (45 double tenements), 36 are exempt. Prices of provisions: Beef, 5*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; mutton, veal and lamb, 6*d.*; wheat, 10*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; rye, 7*s.*; all other grain in proportion; butter, 9*d.* to 1*s.* per lb. Labourers' wages, 2*s* a day. There are 13 ale-houses and 2 friendly societies, both flourishing. Rent of land, £1 to £1 10*s.* per acre. Farms, £20 to £100 a year. Tithes taken by composition. The Poor mostly reside in a Poor-house. They have been farmed for 20 years, at first at 1*s.* 6*d.* a head, then at 1*s.* 8*d.* and now (July, 1796) at 2*s.* There are about 20 in the house.

Table of diet: Breakfast—every day, milk and oatmeal. Dinner—Sunday, butchers' meat; Monday, hasty pudding; Tuesday, dumplins of wheatmeal; Wednesday, meat and potatoes; Thursday, baked pudding; Friday, frumenty of shop barley; Saturday, boiled potatoes and melted butter. Supper, every day, milk and bread.

STOKESLEY parish consists of six townships. In Stokesley town 158 houses pay tax, 164 exempt. Prices of provisions are: Beef and mutton, 5*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb; other articles much the same as in Hull Labourers get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. Their usual diet is bread, milk and tea, potatoes, and meat sparingly. There are 23 inns or ale-houses, only one lets out chaises and horses. Two friendly societies, rules not confirmed. Rent of land

generally £1 10*s.* an acre, but more round Stokesley. Farms small. Tithes let by lease for three years to some of the principal inhabitants, who agree with each individual, so that they are seldom if ever drawn. Some of the Poor are maintained in a house rented by the parish, some in cottages, the rent of which is paid by the overseers. The Poor-house is in good condition. Paupers are taken in at 20*d.* a week each. Other parishes send their Poor when the house is not full. The master receives the profit of the work done, less a small deduction for each pauper, according to the earnings.

Table of diet: Breakfast—every day, milk and oatmeal. Dinner, Sunday, beef, roots and dumplins; Monday, hasty pudding, oatmeal; Tuesday, frumenty French barley; Wednesday, beef broth and bread; Thursday, frumenty; Friday, fry and potatoes; Saturday, potatoes and butter and salt fish. Supper—every day, milk and oatmeal. Only one person has died in the house in the last three years. The rate is 6*d.* in the pound on land and 3*d.* on houses.

THORNTON lies within a mile of Ingledon, and contains 1,700 acres of enclosed ground, and 3,500 of mountainous common. There are 88 families. 42 houses pay tax, 45 exempt. Price of provisions: Oatmeal, 1*s.* 11*d.* per st.; best flour, 2*s.* 8½*d.*; old milk, ½*d.* per qt.; new, ½*d.* per pint; potatoes, 6 quarts for 4*d.* Ordinary labourers get 8*s.* to 10*s.* a week without diet. There is only one ale-house and no friendly society. Rent of land about 17*s.* an acre. Tithes mostly taken in kind, but a modus in lieu of hay. 13 regular pensioners, seven of whom have families of nearly 4 persons each on an average, have parish allowances at home Some receive casual relief, some have house rents paid Rates are about 10*d.* in the pound. Removals very few, an appeal but once in ten years.

NORTH WALES

DENBIGHSHIRE

LLANFERRAS is about 8 miles in circumferance, but one-half is common and waste. The population is from 380 to 400 persons. 46 houses (3 or 4 double tenements) pay tax; 30, mostly cottages on the common, exempt. Prices of provisions: Beef, mutton and veal, 3*d*. to 5*d*. a pound; wheat, 15*s*. the measure of 84lbs.; barley, 7*s*. for 42 quarts; oats, 4*s*.; potatoes, 2*s*. heaped. Wages of labourers from Michaelmas to Ladyday, 1*s*. 2*d*. a day; Ladyday to midsummer, 1*s*. 4*d*.; midsummer to Michaelmas, 1*s*. 6*d*. In harvest, 1*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*. a day. Lead miners earn 2*s*. to 3*s*. a day at all seasons, but seldom have much beforehand. Rent of land, for its quality, which is poor, is high. Farmers pay 18*s*. to 25*s*. a statute acre, depending on the carriage of ore. Tithes are let by auction, which prevents disputes. The Poor are maintained at home by an allowance, and generally have coals and house rent paid for them. There are no Houses of Industry in this county, nor do they appear to be needed. The rates are 3*s*. 4*d*. in the pound, but nearly one-half goes to the county rate, which is high owing to the number of bridges. No Poor-rate was collected before 1768, but collections were made at church for those in distress. The whole expense of the Poor in 1719 was 5*s*., and in 1740 2*s*. 6*d*., nor was any thing collected in intermediate years. The rate did not exceed 1*s*. in any year till 1770, when owing to a heavy county rate it was 2*s*. Assessments are made according to land tax, and lawyers have not recieved from this parish for parochial litigation more than £20 in 115 years, and that was in 1789, when an appeal against a removal, the only one recorded, was lodged. Friendly societies are not so numerous as they were 20 years before, owing to frauds.

Some have fallen into disrepute, owing to their entering into political discussions.

Earnings and expenses of a labourer by the week: Man gets in January, 7*s.*, eldest boy of 13, 2*s.* 6*d.*; total, 9*s.* 6*d.* Expenses: Barley, one measure, 7*s.*; butter, 1lb., 9½*d.*; potatoes, ½ measure, 1*s.*; milk, 3*d.*; house and firing, 1*s.* Total, 10*s.* 5½*d.* In harvest: Man, 10*s.* 6*d.*, wife, in fine weather 6*s.*, eldest boy 2*s.* 6*d.*, two eldest girls of 15 and 11, gleaning, 4*s.* Total, £1 3*s.* Expenses: Barley and potatoes as in January; butter, 1½lbs., 1*s.*; milk, 4*d.*; house and firing, 10*d.*; butchers' meat, 1*s.*; salt, etc., 2*d.* Total, 11*s.* 4*d.* The house rent is paid half yearly.

Earnings and expenses of another labourer: In January, man, 7*s.* Expenses: Barley, 3*s.* 6*d.*; butter, 9½*d.*; potatoes, 4*d.*; house and fire, 1*s.*; milk, 2*d.*; bacon, 5*d.*; oatmeal, 1½*d.* Total, 6*s.* 4*d.* In harvest: Man, 10*s.* 6*d.* Expenses: Barley, 3*s.* 6*d.*; butter, 8*d.*; butchers' meat, 1*s.* 3*d.*; milk, 2*d.*; salt and oatmeal, 3*d.*; house and firing, 10*d.* Total, 6*s.* 8*d.*

WREXHAM is variously described. Some say 10 miles by 4 or 5, some 7 by 4. No account could be obtained as to the population. 646 houses pay tax, number exempt not ascertained. Prices of provisions: Beef and mutton, 4*d.* to 4½*d.* per lb.; veal, and pork, 5*d.*; bacon, 9*d.*; salt butter, 8*d.*; fresh, 9*d.*; new milk, 2*d.* per qt.; old, 1*d.*; potatoes, 90lbs. for 1*s.* 11*d.*; wheat, 13*s.* to 14*s.* per bush; barley, 6*s.* 6*d.*; oats, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*; coals, 4*d.* per cwt. The dearness of provisions is ascribed to monopolising farmers. Labourers in winter and spring have 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, in summer 1*s.* 4*d.*, in harvest generally 1*s.* 6*d.* but sometimes 2*s.* There are 45 ale-houses in the town and 10 in the hamlet, and 6 friendly societies containing altogether 700 members. Their rules have been confirmed. Rent varies from 10*s.* to £3 an acre, average 25*s.* Tithes taken in kind. Land tax about 1*s.* in the pound or less. The Poor are partly maintained in a Workhouse

and partly at home. There are 46 persons in the house, chiefly old persons or young children, or the blind, lame or insane. The master agreed to supply such Poor as the parish should send with meat, drink and fuel for 2*s.* a week each, and their earnings, but none of the present inmates can work. The parish provides the house, clothes, beds and bedding, and other furniture. Owing to the dearness of provisions, they have resolved to give the master 30 guineas. 260 regular pensioners receive weekly pay and others have occasional relief. Bill of fare, which is occasionally varied according to circumstances: Breakfast—every day, broth or milk. Dinner—Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, meat and vegetables; other days, bread and butter or cheese. Supper—every day, bread and milk. The rates, 4*s.* in the pound, are levied on an old assessment, and it is supposed that property is not assessed at one-third of its real value, so that the rates are not really 1*s.* 4*d.* in the pound. Even so, it is a common complaint that the rates are high. In consequence of disputes among the proprietors of iron and lead works, many workmen have of late been unemployed.

SOUTH WALES

PEMBROKESHIRE

NARBETH contains about 4,400 acres and 800 inhabitants. 96 houses pay tax, 104 exempt. Agricultural labourers receive 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day without diet. 10*d.* a day or £13 a year may be considered as the fair earnings of a man in husbandry. His earnings for task work will make up for rainy days and holidays. A few farmers pay their men 8*d.* a day, and give them a small present of meat and corn at Christmas. A gentleman in the parish pays his men 10*d.* a day (Sundays excepted) and they find their own meat and drink, except in hay and corn harvest. Women assist in harvesting

and in weeding and stone picking, but their earnings are very inconsiderable. They are oftener seen basking in the sun in summer or shivering over a stolen wood fire in winter than in profitable exertions of industry. Bread and cheese, potatoes and porridge, and a thick flummery made out of coarse oatmeal are the usual diet of the labouring Poor. A few keep a cow, and in summer make curds from the whey, which with a little thin milk and bread is often used for breakfast. Prices of provisions (5th April, 1796): Wheat, 8*s.* 6*d.* per Winchester bushel; barley, 4*s.* 4*d.*; oats, 2*s.* 6*d.*; beef and mutton, 5*d.* per lb.; veal, 4½*d.* There are 11 ale-houses in Narbeth. Average rent of land, 5*s.* per statute acre. Land tax about 6*d.* in the pound on the net rental. Tithes compounded for at 2*s.* in the pound on the yearly rents. Farms generally very small. In 1788 1,800 acres of commons were enclosed, of which 700 are still uncultivated, owing to the poverty of the soil and of the occupiers. The Poor are mostly maintained by a weekly allowance, paid in money, some have their house rents paid, and others have occasional assistance. A friendly society was established 20 years ago. It is in a flourishing state and maintains its own Poor. The rules have been confirmed

RADNORSHIRE

KNIGHTON is a small town in a very secluded situation. The population could not be ascertained. 108 houses pay tax, about 30 exempt. Prices of provisions are the same as at Presteign. There are 13 ale-houses and 2 friendly societies, whose rules have been confirmed. Farms small, rent about £1 1*s.* an acre. Tithes compounded for at 2*s.* in the pound Land tax believed to be about 1*s.* in the pound. The Poor till May, 1795, were farmed by a contractor in Ludlow for £148 a year, but are now maintained partly in a Workhouse and partly by out-pensions. There are 17 persons in the

house, and 12 families receive 17*s.* a week. The overseers now find a great deal of trouble in managing their Poor, particularly in the Workhouse, which is under a governess, who is perfectly incompetent to enforce obedience. The Poor seldom obey and often beat her, and even among themselves they have continual disputes. The parish regret the change, particularly as the rates will be considerably higher. The breakfast in the Workhouse is milk or broth, dinner mostly meat and vegetables, supper bread and cheese or milk.

PRESTEIGN is about 3 miles by 1. Population not ascertained. 118 houses pay tax, 40 exempt. Prices of provisions: Beef, 3*d.* to 4½*d.* per lb; mutton, 3½*d.* to 4½*d.*; veal, 4½*d* to 5*d.*; pork, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; bacon, 10*d.*; butter, 9½*d.* to 11*d.*; milk, 1*d.* per quart; potatoes, 2*s.* per bush of 10 gallons; wheat, 12*s.* to 13*s.* ditto; barley, 5*s.*; oats, 3*s.* 6*d.*; coals, 30*s.* per ton. In winter labourers have 1*s.* a day and beer, in summer 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and beer, in harvest 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and board. Women weeding have 6*d.* a day and beer. Some women spin for hire and earn 6*d.* a day. Farms make most of their linen at home. There are 10 ale-houses and one friendly society with 81 members. The rules have been confirmed. There is a small woollen factory here. The men earn 9*s.* a week, women 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* Children 1*s.* 6*d.* Rent of land is 10*s.* to £3 an acre, average 21*s.* Farms principally £100 a year. Half the parish is either meadow or pasture. The number of small farms is decreasing. Tithes compounded for at 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the rent. Land tax paid by the landlord is about 8*d.* in the pound. About 20 acres of common. The Poor have been farmed by the same person for the last 8 years. His annual allowance is £145, but owing to the high price of provisions the township have made him a gift of £20, half for the Poor in the house, and half for the relief of indigent housekeepers. There are 19 persons in

the house at present (Nov., 1795) and 65 families of out-pensioners, about 60 of which receive weekly pay. The farmer's father, 37 years ago, farmed the Poor of this township for £60 a year, and gave no out-pensions, but obliged all the necessitous who did not exceed 8 to come into the house. The house stands in a fine situation, but is a most wretched hovel. He has 9 beds of chaff and flocks. He often gives the Poor three and sometimes five meat dinners in a week, and the other dinners are milk and potatoes mashed. The breakfasts are milk, or broth and bread. The suppers bread and cheese. The rate in 1794 was 5*s*. in the pound, and for some years before, 4*s*. on the nominal rental, which is scarcely half the real rental. A considerable part is applied to county purposes.

The following is a short account of an agricultural labourer's family. He is 40, with a wife and 5 children, of 9, 7, 5½, 3 and 1½. The wages and employment of the father are extremely various at different times of the year. In summer he receives from 1*s*. to 1*s*. 6*d*. a day ; in winter from 10*d*. to 1*s*. a day. He is allowed his board in harvest. but not at other times except while he works for a gentleman, which occurs about once a week. He is sometimes prevented by wet weather from working, and often cannot procure employment so that upon the whole he thinks the average of his earnings does not exceed 6*s*. a week. His wife occasionally assists a neighbouring family in baking, and earns about 9*d*. a week. The oldest children nurse the youngest. The family never received relief from the parish till last winter (1794-5), when they were allowed in the severest part of the season about 3 pecks of wheat and 5*s*. in money. He can give no further account of his expenses than that his family uses every week near half a bushel of wheat, which now costs 6*s*. His house rent is 30*s*. a year. Their common breakfast is onion pottage ; dinner, bread or potatoes ; supper, the same. They very rarely can procure a

bit of meat or butter. The man seems honest and industrious, and bears a good character. It is evident that the family must often be in a very distressed situation. Manufacturers with double the wages are often driven to rioting from want, so great is the force of custom. One of the parish officers says that last summer, during the very high price of corn, the earnings of labourers were so small here that the Poor were literally starving, and that two poor people who came to have relief from him were in such a state of unfeigned distress that they actually fell down in his home through hunger.

INDEX OF FAMILY BUDGETS

Place	Occupation	Page
Banbury	labourer	280
,,	labourer	281
Blandford	labourer	177
Bradford on Avon	vestry clerk	344
Bristol	horsekeeper at an inn	191
Cumberland (unspecified)	labourer	166
Cumwhitton	tailor	155
,,	woman	156
Durham	ostler	180
Ealing	labourer	241
Ellesmere	labourer	296
Epsom	gardener	317
Frome	cooper	303
Kendal	tolinet weaver	334
,,	calico weaver	335
,,	weaver	335
,,	weaver	336
,,	mason	336
,,	agricultural labourer	337
,,	labourer	337
Kibworth Beauchamp	labourer	226
Leicester	woolcomber	228
Llanferras	labourer	369
,,	labourer	369
Manchester	dyer	219
,,	carter	220
Monmouth	labourer	246
Nent Head	miner	159

Place	Occupation	Page
Portsmouth	dock labourer	198
Presteign	agricultural labourer	373
Roade	labourer	264
Seend	labourer	345
,,	widow	346
Stanhope	miner	185
,,	mason	185
Streatley	labourer	135
Sunderland	miner	186
Wetheral	labourer	162
,,	weaver	163
,,	weaver	163
Wolverhampton	spectacle frame maker	309

GENERAL INDEX

PAGE

"Account of Several Workhouses," 1725 49
Acland, Mr., his scheme for insuring the Poor 75
Address to the magistrates of the county of Gloucester, by Sir George Paul 126
Aged Poor, special provision for in Liverpool Workhouse . . 217
Agricultural labourers more economical than manufacturers . 224
Alcock, Mr., his proposals for dealing with the Poor . . . 57
Aldersgate, Firmin's Workhouse in 33
Alehouses in Surrey, prevalence of 107
Aliens not entitled to parish relief 28, 257
Annals of Agriculture quoted 105, 127, 323
Apletre, John, pamphlet by 37
Apprentices not to be bound beyond the age of 21 . . . 62
Assessments, money raised by. 74

Badgers, or corndealers blamed for high prices 248
Badging of paupers 274, 314, 343
Barn at Cholsey, 101 yards long, 18 yards wide 137
Bannocks, described 104
Bara-greiddell described. 104
Barley bread used in Cumberland 103
Bastardy promoted by Settlement Act 29
Bearwards declared to be rogues 56
Bedford, bequest by Alderman Harper to the Poor of. . . 94
Bedfordshire, list of prices in, January, 1795 111
Beer, amount of, consumed in England 107
Bellers, John, pamphlet by 46
Berkshire magistrates and scale of relief 125
Beverley, applicants for relief sent to Workhouse at . . . 52
Birmingham, described as "the Toy Shop of Europe" . . 327
Bla-mange described 102
Blankets not provided in Monmouth Workhouse . . . 246
Boarding out of parish children made compulsory . . . 62
Boiled milk described 105
Boys' "General View of the Agriculture of Kent," quoted . 210
"Bread for the Poor," 1698, quoted. 25
Bread, different kinds used 103
Bristol parishes incorporated by Act of Parliament . . . 41
Bristol Workhouse, employment of children in. 49
Brown, Dr., his "Thoughts on Civil Liberty, Licentiousness and Faction" 88
Brown bread said to disorder the bowels 209
Budget, labourers', inaccurate. 317
Bugs, Workhouses infested with (see also vermin) 145, 190, 228, 328
Burn, Dr., his "History of the Poor Law," quoted . . 59, 64
Burn, Dr., his "Justice of the Peace," quoted 258
Burwash, Sussex, number of inhabitants chargeable . . . 21

PAGE
Camden, Lord, his speech against Mr. Dowdeswell's Bill . . 67
Canals, an alleged injury to the Poor. 284
Carlisle bushel described 113
Carlisle, Caldewgate quarter of, number of inhabitants chargeable 21
Cary, Mr., essay by 41
Cary, Mr., his account of Bristol Workhouse 51
Chaily, Sussex, effect of a common in 95
Charitable Society for the relief of strangers 276
Charities, amount of in England 75
Charities, a cause of high rates 130, 154
Cheshire acre defined 221
Child, Sir Josiah, "New Discourse of Trade" 30
Cholsey Barn 137
"City of Cottages," Sir Josiah Child 31
Clap-bread, made of barley meal 104
Cleanliness of Lincolnshire labourers 231
"Cleare and Evident Way for Enriching the Nations of England and Ireland," by I.D., 1650 27
Clergy, poverty of 350
Clogs not used in North Sctoland 111
Clogs used in Cumberland 109
Clogs, yearly expense of 157
Clothes worn by Highlanders 111
Clothes worn by labourers in Cumberland. 109
Clothes worn by labourers in London 108, 110
Clothiers, master, disqualified for rating wages of weavers . . 24
Clothing, cost of paupers 299
Coal balls used in Wales 108
Coke, Lord, quoted 25
Common fields a cause of high rates 283, 292
Commons a cause of high rates 95, 323, 332
Commons attract Poor into the parish 210
"Commonwealth of England," by Sir Thomas Smith, quoted 12
"Considerations on Several Proposals for the Better Maintenance of the Poor" 57
Contested removals, expense of . . 149, 153, 154, 157
Contract of service for 51 weeks 307
Contractor not allowing sufficient food for the Poor . . . 161
Conveyance of vagrants, rates for, fixed 43
Cottages without four acres of land prohibited 71
County manufacturers, their advantage 137
Cow money, origin of 305
Crowdie, how made 101
Crumpe, Dr., his "Essay on the best means of providing Employment for the People" 91
Cumberland, prices in, January, 1795 112
Cumberland, labourers' diet 147
Curwen, Mr., his contributions to friendly societies . . 158, 165

Davenant, Dr., pamphlet by 36, 37
Debenta money paid by the King 139
De Foe, pamphlet by 43
Devonshire day labourer, earning of, at the end of the seventeenth century 36, 40
Devonshire, poor rate in, anno 1698 39
Diet of East Yorkshire labourers . . 354, 358, 367

PAGE
Diet of Kentish labourers 210, 212
Diet of Lincolnshire labourers 233, 236
Diet of miners near Newcastle 271
Diet of Westmorland labourers 333, 341
Discourse touching Provision for the Poor, "A, by Sir Matthew Hale 35
Disorderly Workhouses 230, 371
Dowdeswell, Mr., his Bill for establishing life annuities for the Poor 67
Dudley, Mr. Bate, on Mr. Gilbert's scheme. 82
Dunnings, Richard, pamphlet by 35, 39
Dutton, Lord, minstrells licensed by, not rogues. 56

Empingham, House of Protection at 52, 289
End gatherers declared to be incorrigible rogues. 56
"England's Improvement by Land and Sea," by A. Yarranton, 1677 32
"Enquiry into the Causes and Production of Poverty," by John Vancouver 98
"Essay on Charity Schools," by Mandeville 89
"Essay on the best means for providing Employment for the People," by Dr. S. Crumpe 91
"Essay towards regulating the Trade and employing the Poor in this Kingdom," by Mr. Cary 41
"Essay upon the First Principles of Government," by Dr. Priestley 89
"Essay upon Ways and Means," by Dr. Davenant 36

Farming of the Poor, authorised by Parliament 48
Farming of the Poor made illegal 73
Farming of the Poor condemned by Dr. Burn 73
Farming of the Poor reduces rates, the reason 320
Fathers of the Poor 32
Fencers declared to be rogues 56
Fever prevalent in Workhouses 186, 272, 277, 334
Fielding, Mr. Henry, publications by 57, 59
Firmin, Thomas, letter to Archbishop Tillotson. 33
Flummery described 102
Foreigners not entitled to parochial relief . . 28, 257, 276
Forestalling, complaint of 204
Forfeitures, pecuniary, applied to the relief of the Poor . . 21
Fountains Abbey, Stores at 9
Fuel, cheapness of in the North. 104, 187
Fuel, dear in the South 108, 282
Furmenty, or barley milk described 102

Gee, Joshua, on the Bristol Workhouse 52
Gilbert, Mr., his reforms of the Poor Law . . . 72, 81
"Giving Alms no Charity," by De Foe 43
Gloucestershire, prices in, January, 1795 113
Good old times criticised 111
Goodwill, Society of Universal 258
"Grand Concern of England Explained," 1673 . . . 32
"Greevous Grones for the Poor," by M. S. London . . . 26

Hall, Sir Matthew, pamphlet by 35
Handhoven bread described 104

PAGE
Hard cakes or thar-cakes described 104
Harper, Alderman, his bequest to the Poor of Bedford . . 94
Harveis, Rev. Mr., pamphlet by 83
Hasty pudding described 101
Hay, Mr., his Committee of the House of Commons; report and Bill 55, 57
Hay, Mr., his publication of the Poor Laws 53
Heathcote, Sir Gilbert, House of Protection at Empingham designed by 289
Hertfordshire, prices in, January, 1795 113
Highlanders' clothes home made 111
Highways, statute labour on 68
Hillsborough, Earl of, his scheme for a reform of the Poor Law 58
"History of Man," by Lord Kames 69
Holt's "General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lancaster," quoted 217
Hoven bread described 102
Howard, Mr., his suggestions for improving Workhouses . . 169
Howard, Mr., on Hull Workhouse 357
Howard, Mr., prison on his plan at Preston 220
Howlett, Mr., his publication on the Poor Laws . . . 53
Howlett, Mr., on Dr. Price's "Essay on Population" . . 62
Howlett, Mr., on Mr. Acland's scheme of insurance . . . 77
Howlett, Mr., his "Investigation of Mr. Pitt's speech" . . 93
Huntingdonshire, prices in, January, 1795 114

I.D., author of pamphlet entitled "Cleare and evident way for enriching the Nations of England and Ireland," 1650. . 27
Idiots and vagrants, Workhouse a motley receptacle of . . 150
Idle and disorderly person defined by Act of Parliament. . 55
Industry, Schools of, only temporarily successful . . . 230
"Inquiry Concerning the Poor," by McFarlan, quoted . . 96
"Inquiry into the Causes of the late increase of Robbers," by Henry Fielding 57
"Insufficiency of the Causes to which the increase of the Poor have been ascribed," by Mr. Howlett. 77
Insurance of the Poor, Mr. Acland's scheme for. . . . 75
Interludes, strolling players of, declared to be rogues . . 56
"Investigation of Mr. Pitt's Speech," by Mr. Howlett . . 93

Jannock oaten bread described 104
Johnson, Dr., quoted 3

Kames, Lord, his "History of Man," quoted . . . 69
Kames, Lord, his "Sketches," quoted 94
Kelt, meaning of 109
Kent, "General view of agriculture in," quoted . . . 211
King, Gregory, quoted 37
King of the Spinners 234
Kitcheness bread described 104

Lancaster, "General view of agriculture in the county of," quoted 212
Largo in Fife, effect of Mr. Wood's bequest in 95
Lazy diligent nation, England described as 44
Leicestershire, prices in, January, 1795 115
Leslie, essay by 46

PAGE
Lincolnshire, prices in, January, 1795 115
Linsley, Mr., character of 361
Lloyd, Sir Richard, his scheme for the Reform of the Poor Law 58
Lobscouse described 102
Locke, John, report on the Poor by 38, 39
London, population of in 1590 and 1595 21
Lotteries, persons engaged in illegal, declared to be rogues . . 56

Machinery, use of, leads to high wages 348
Mackworth, Sir Humphrey, his Bill in Parliament . . . 44
McFarlan's "Inquiry Concerning the Poor," quoted . 96, 97
Maidstone, applicants for relief sent to Workhouse at. . . 52
Maintenance, House of, name employed instead of Workhouse 52
Maseres, Baron, publication by 67
Massie, James, pamphlet by 61
Mandeville, "Essay on Charity Schools," by . . . 89
Marryott, Mr. Matthew, of Olney, projector of Workhouses . 49
Meat seldom eaten by labourers except in a Workhouse. . 208
Milk dear in London 106
Minstrells, declared to be rogues 56
Monopolizing farmers blamed. 227, 251, 369
Moore, Arthur, his estimate of the Poor Rate. . . . 36
Mortality among children in parish Workhouses . . . 62
Mortmain of Family Settlements 9
Munich, Public Kitchen of 127

Nettles a part of the diet of the Poor. 353
"New Discourse of Trade," by Sir Josiah Child . . . 35
"Niefe of bloud". 12
Norfolk, prices in, January, 1795 116
Northamptonshire, prices in, January, 1795 117
Northumberland, prices in, January, 1795 117

Oatcake the common bread in Lancashire 215
Observations on Revenue Payment, quoted 62
Overseers, Mr. Hay's exaggerated account of 54
Overseers of the Poor, described by Dr. Burn 65
Overseers of Maidstone Workhouse 52
Overseers required to make returns as to amount of assessments 58
Overseers' society for settling disputes 306
"Overflow of charity in the good people of England" . . 70
Oxford, applicants for relief sent to Workhouse at . . . 52
Oxfordshire, prices in, January, 1795 118

Palmistry, fortune tellers pretending skill in, declared to be rogues 56
Patent gatherers declared to be rogues 56
Paul, Sir George, his address to the magistrates of Gloucestershire 126
Pease-Kail described 102
Personal property, variable system of rating 95
Physiognomy, fortune tellers pretending skill in, declared to be rogues 56
Poor, definition of the 3
Poor Law, object of 36, 85, 221, 289
Poor rates, estimated amount of 32, 33, 36, 39, 72
Poor rates higher where there are commons 323
Popularity of Bristol Workhouse 191

PAGE
Potatoes, how cooked by the Poor 102
Potatoes, value of in time of dearth 103
Potter, Mr., proposes an annual census, etc. 58
Premiums for spinning and knitting 237, 290
Price, Dr., publications by, quoted 62
Priestley, Dr., his essay on "The First Principles of Government" 89
"Proposals for Employing the Poor," by Thomas Firmin. . 33
"Proposals for the Better Maintenance of the Poor," by J. Apletre 37
"Proposals for Employing the Poor in a College of Industry," by John Bellers 46
Proposal for establishing Life Annuities in Parishes for the benefit of the Poor," by Baron Maseres 67
Protection, House of, name employed at Empingham instead of Workhouse 52, 289
"Public Houses, Observations and Facts relative to," quoted 107
Purvey explained 160

Quakers, absence of Poor among 132

R.H., pamphlet by 33
Rates, high, ascribed to enclosures 143, 227, 267
Rates, high where charities exist 130
Rates, high, ascribed to consolidation of farms . . 177-178
Rates, parish with no 278
Rainey, Mr., his work at Bradford on Avon 343
Ray, Mr., his collection of North Country words, quoted . . 104
Reformation, results of 8
"Remarks on the Poor Law" by Mr. Hay 53
Removals, expenses of contested . . . 149, 365, 366
Ribbons and garters stimulate the Rich to active and honest exertion 234
Riddle-cakes described 104
Rigby, Mr., his reform of Norwich Workhouse. . . . 255
Rogues and vagabonds defined 16, 55
Roundsmen 141, 142, 227, 283
Rousseau, quoted 3
Rumford, Count, quoted 108
"Rye teeth," lost by Nottinghamshire labourers . . . 105

Scotland, Statistical Account of, on mendicants. . . . 96
Scotland, Statistical Account of, on clogs 109
Scots' Society in Norwich 257
Seeds, the refuse of oatmeal 102
Settlement Act, 1662, explained 28
Settlement Act, baneful effect of 30, 53
Sheepshall, extracts from a farmer's book in 114
Sheets on Workhouse beds 359
Shrewsbury, number of inhabitants in who are in receipt of charity 21
Shrewsbury Workhouse 127
"Sketches," by Lord Kames, quoted 94
Slavery, proposed by Mr. Alcock, as a punishment for idleness 58
Smith, Adam, "Wealth of Nations," quoted . 29, 53, 90
Smith, Sir Thomas, "Commonwealth of England," quoted . . 12
Society of Universal Goodwill 258
Soldiers, maimed, forced to beg 26
Soup used by Cumberland labourers described. . . . 104

PAGE
Soup, unpopular in the South 106
Sowens, described 102
Spinners, King or Queen of the 234
Spinning, wages of, very low. 159, 311
Stanleye's Remedy, 1646 26
Starving condition of applicants for relief. 374
Statute labour on highways 68
Stevenson, George, agent for the Newark friendly societies. . 274
Suffolk, prices in, January, 1795 119

Thar-cakes, or bannocks described 104
"Thoughts on Civil Liberty, Licentiousness and Faction," by Dr. Brown 88
Toppesfield, Mr. Howlett on the origin of families at. . . 54
Townsend, Mr., on the Poor Law, quoted. 80
"Toy-shop of Europe". 327
"Travels in France," by Arthur Young, quoted. . . . 96
"Treatise on Trade and Navigation," by Joshua Gee. . . 52
Tucker, Dr., Dean of Gloucester, pamphlet by . . . 63

Vagabonds, defined 16
Vagrants, estimated number in 1646 26
Vancouver, John, his "Enquiry into the Causes and Production of Poverty," quoted. 98
Vermin prevalent in a Workhouse (see also bugs) . . 277, 310

Wages of workmen rated 24
Water pottage, explained 173, 353
Wheat, abnormal prices of 138, 283
Whipping of vagrants 17, 18, 27
Wine sold in alehouses 231
Wood, Mr., author of the account of the Shrewsbury House of Industry, quoted 74, 299
Wood, Mr., his bequest in Largo, Fife 95
Woodward, Dr., Bishop of Cloyne, quoted 70, 86
"Worcester, Proposals for the Maintenance of the Poor in the County of," by J. Apletre. 37
Workhouse, Poor better provided for at, than at home . . 150
Workhouses, first built in several towns. 42
Workhouses, provision of, authorised by Act of Parliament. . 48

Yarranton, Andrew, pamphlet by 32
Young, Arthur, "Northern Tour," quoted 117
Young, Arthur, "Travels in France," quoted 96
Young, Sir William, his proposed reforms 82
Yorkshire manufacturing towns, their elegant houses . . . 302
Yorkshire, prices in, January, 1795 119

129836 261.15
Ed28

Eden Sir Frederick Morton.

The state of the poor.

261.15
Ed28

129836